

THE INDEPENDENT



Wednesday 15 October 1997

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TODAY'S NEWS

Car's future in a jam

As the London Motor Show kicked off yesterday, government figures suggested that traffic could increase by 50 per cent in the next two decades, bringing cities to choked gridlock and hugely lengthening motorway journey times. Ministers warned that in future they will regard new roads as "a solution of last resort". Road closures, tolls and restrictions on car use are all possible. Page 5

Roy wins Booker Prize

The winner of the 1997 Booker Prize is the Indian novelist Arundhati Roy, whose debut novel, *The God of Small Things*, tells the story of a tragic marriage.

Boozy violence up

Violent crimes are increasing because more of us can afford to drink too much, according to a government statistician. The total number of offences is much higher than official figures suggest, probably about 60 million crimes a year rather than 5 million. Page 10

Rows stunt growth

Children who are brought up in an atmosphere of domestic strife are nearly twice as likely to be below average height than children from happy families. They are also likelier to die younger. Page 6

Queen visits temple

The Queen visited the site of the Amritsar massacre yesterday on the most controversial date of her Indian tour. The relatives of the dead said they were satisfied with her gesture. However, in a day of baton charges, golden streamers and large crowds, Peter Popham discovered that the royal couple's enthusiastic welcome to the Sikhs' Golden Temple had another political dimension. Page 14

SEEN & HEARD

Eric Anderson, who used to teach the Prime Minister English at Fettes school in Edinburgh, watched his former pupil's performance at the Labour Party conference with quiet satisfaction. Yesterday he noted that Tony Blair's dramatic skills reflected well on the teacher who taught him how to act. Dr Anderson, later head of Eton and now rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, recalled that the young Blair was "challenging but not a swot". He was, however, so eager and vociferous that a colleague of Mr Anderson's used to preface a question to his class with: "Not you, Blair."

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Scotland Yard investigates bizarre theft charge against Al Fayed



Carrying good favour: Mohamed Al Fayed (right) with Tiny Rowland at Harrods in October 1993, during what was to prove a short-term reconciliation. Photograph: Stephan Rousseau

Scotland Yard is investigating a complaint of theft from tycoon Tiny Rowland's security deposit box at Harrods, allegedly ordered by his arch business rival, Mohamed Al Fayed. Kim Sengupta and Colin Brown chart an astonishing day, when disgraced former MP Neil Hamilton fought back with sensational allegations of intrigue and burglary.

Last night a Harrods spokesman denied that the boxes had anything to do with the Harrods Bank, and also strenuously denied that they had been broken into. The spokesman, Michael Cole, said the allegations had been made by a disgruntled employee, Bob Loftus, who had demanded money from Mr Fayed.

The bombshell was dropped at the end of two hours of evidence by Neil Hamilton in a bravura performance to clear his name for accepting cash for questions from Mr Fayed.

Mr Hamilton dramatically read out to astonished MPs a statement by the former Harrods security officer, alleging that Mr Fayed had ordered his staff to break into the security box.

Mr Loftus, who was in charge of the safe-deposit boxes in the basement of the store, said that on 11 or 12 December 1995 he was told by John McNamara, the director of the store's security, that Mr Fayed, the chairman of the company, had instructed them to "access" Mr Rowland's safe-deposit box.

Mr Loftus said he asked how they would do it. Mr McNamara, a former senior detective with the Metropolitan Police, allegedly replied: "I must know a locksmith who would do the job, no questions asked."

Even as the astonished MPs listened to Mr Hamilton, half a mile away Mr Rowland was revealing that items had been stolen from the box which he had kept at the store since before the war. He called in the police two months ago and Scotland Yard confirmed that its organised crimes squad was carrying out an investigation into alleged theft, and the inquiries were continuing.

Mr Rowland would only say: "The matter is in the hands of the police. I have gone with senior officers from Scotland Yard to retrieve what was left in my box." But his wife Josie said: "It is very upsetting. Anyone could see the box had been tampered with. Tiny has lost a lot of things including some belonging to his mother."

Mr Loftus said they could not do that. Mr McNamara replied: "If the chairman wants it done, we do it."

Mr Hamilton named a locksmith from Coulsdon in Surrey who allegedly agreed to break into the box, using special keys, after the store was closed with the security cameras switched off, and was paid with a white envelope stuffed with £50 notes "to square him". Mr Loftus said he told the locksmith: "You've done a good job - keep your mouth shut."

The box was taken to Mr Fayed's office suite on the fifth floor and put on the desk of Nancy Bush, Mr Fayed's senior personal assistant. Mr Fayed allegedly said: "Well done - good job."

Mr McNamara wore plastic gloves from the food hall to pick up some documents, which were copied before everything was meticulously returned.

Mr Loftus said Mr Fayed came out of the office at one point and said: "Why didn't you bloody tell me about this when we had trouble with the DTI ... that he had this box here?" Mr Hamilton added: "The customer of course was Mr Rowland."

The break-in was repeated on another occasion, and two reels of brown magnetic tape were found in another deposit box held by Mr Rowland. When Mr Loftus objected to copying them, Mr Fayed allegedly said: "Just do it, don't you worry Bob."

Mr Hamilton made the allegations to reinforce his claims that Mr Fayed's personal staff had lied when they gave evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, that Mr Hamilton had accepted cash for questions with money stuffed into envelopes on a regular basis.

Denying he had taken cash for questions from Mr Fayed, Mr Hamilton pleaded with the standards and privileges committee, chaired by the former Labour Treasury minister Robert Sheldon, not to condemn him to a "life sentence" and expunge from the record the "series of falsehoods" against him.

The disgraced ex-MP for Tatton, who lost his seat to Martin Bell, the Independent who campaigned against sleaze, defended himself without notes for two hours in a performance that one MP described as "impressive".

Merchant resigns from Parliament

Piers Merchant, the Tory MP for Beckenham, who has been the subject of two investigations by tabloid newspapers into his relationship with an 18-year-old woman, variously described as his researcher and bar hostess, announced he was going to resign from Parliament.

After the woman, Anna Cox, came out of Mr Merchant's home to confront photographers, she became distressed and was taken to a local hospital. Speculation has started over whether the relatively safe Tory seat will go to one of the "stars" waiting to return to the Commons, such as Michael Portillo. Page 4

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COLUMN ONE

Professor condemned for view on Holocaust

It was never likely to take off as an idea. To suggest that the term "Holocaust" should be dropped is something few would dare do. But Dr John Fox, a lecturer in Jewish History and Holocaust Studies, although not himself a Jew, has no fear of being labelled an infidel.

The term Holocaust should be abandoned, he says, because it is being "tampered with to create an explicit, negative anti-British thrust". In his lecture to the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies last night, Dr Fox who lectures at both University College and Jews College, London, attacked the "ignorant, ill-informed and hysterical" attacks on Britain's alleged indifference to the Jews' plight.

Academics and members of the Jewish community condemned Dr Fox's proposal. Antony Lerman, director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, a Jewish thinktank, said: "It's just absurd. What earthly purpose would be served by making such a change? It makes you think: 'What's the motive in saying this?'

Professor David Cesarani, the Professor of Modern Jewish History at the University of Southampton, believed that to drop the term would be "silly and futile".

Dr Fox's main source of grievance seems to be the reaction to the Government's release earlier this year of wartime German messages deciphered by Bletchley Park, which showed that the Nazis were slaughtering thousands of Soviet Jews as early as June 1941. He was outspoken at the time about how wrong it was to conclude that Britain should - and could - have done more.

The ill-informed comments European Jewish question under Nazism that appeared this summer confirm me in my view that the time has long passed for the complete abandonment of the term, "The Holocaust," he said. "These comments underline the attempt of some people to rewrite the history of that tragic part of the Second World War in an anti-Alied sense for irresponsible and politically-motivated reasons."

The general view, however, is that it is Dr Fox who is being irresponsible. "The term is part of university courses, it's part of popular culture. To drop it would upset the whole body of scholarship that goes on in relation to teaching the Holocaust," said Mr Lerman.

Professor Cesarani admitted that there were problems with the misuse of the term, but argued that the conclusion to be drawn was that historians should take care to define what they meant when they used the word 'Holocaust' and the public should not adopt it to refer to other tragedies. The way in which the term has been adopted by other people who have suffered genocide as well as, for example, the Aids community and the animal rights lobby, is unhelpful in understanding either the Holocaust or these particular tragedies.

The second problem, according to Professor Cesarani, is the application of the term to include everything that happened to the Jews from Hitler's seizure of power to the end of the Second World War. "There's clearly a qualitative difference between terrorism, expulsion and genocide," he said.

— Clare Garner

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PEOPLE



Facing the rap: Singer Mark Morrison pleaded not guilty to a charge of possessing an offensive weapon after a truncheon was allegedly found in his car in west London; he was remanded on bail until 8 December at Marylebone magistrates' court yesterday. Photograph: Michael Crabtree/PA

Student sues his mother for living expenses

A student yesterday began an unprecedented courtroom battle to sue his mother for a £400-a-month allowance to pay for his living expenses at university.

Patrick Macdonald, who is studying law at Aberdeen University, brought the case against his mother, Margaret Macdonald, herself a lawyer, before Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Under the Family Law (Scotland) Act of 1985, students in Scotland up to the age of 25 can seek "alimony" from their parents if they refuse to pay for the cost of their higher education.

But Mrs Macdonald, who earns £45,000 a year, cannot help her son because she supports four other children and finances her home without help from her ex-husband, her lawyer Jenny Gibbs told the court. Earlier, the court heard that Patrick's father, Hugh, a 54-year-old former advocate with whom Patrick lives, was unemployed and had declared him-

self bankrupt shortly after an acrimonious divorce from Mrs Macdonald. Sheriff Daphne Robertson adjourned the case until tomorrow, when she will make an interim order on payments.

Before yesterday's hearing Ms Macdonald, 53, a solicitor at the Scottish Office, singled out the use of legal aid for criticism. "It just seems cock-eyed that the Government would fund students to sue their parents," she said. "It sends out the message: 'Don't bother to apply for a student loan, just sue your parents and you will get legal aid'."

Whatever the outcome, it will have no bearing on parents and students in England and Wales. A spokeswoman for the Department of Education said: "Parents have no legal liability for the payment of contributions towards an offspring's maintenance [in England and Wales]."

— Michael Streeter

BBC match is 'too late', says Lynam

The BBC's senior sports presenter, Desmond Lynam, renewed his call for the BBC to devote more resources to its sports coverage and asked for *Match of the Day* to be aired at an earlier time.

Lynam said the programme's Saturday night start time of 10.50 was "too late for the game, the players and the kids who watch them".

Last month the presenter expressed dissatisfaction with the start time of the programme but he denied yesterday that he had accused the BBC of betrayal of its viewers in its attitude to sports coverage. "I would have liked the BBC to have been able to show the Italy v England World Cup match last Saturday but there are budget restraints," he said.

"Competition is fierce and times have changed. Sport has turned Sky's fortunes round. They're making money on the back of football and they do a very good service on sport."

BskyB aired the England v Italy match live to 8 million viewers in their homes and an estimated 4 million viewers in pubs and clubs. An additional 11 million watched the match on ITV after the game had finished. It was the biggest audience for a satellite or cable television channel so far.

BskyB tried to poach Mr Lynam from the BBC to take over its sports coverage earlier this year. Out of loyalty to the BBC Mr Lynam signed a contract to stay with the corporation until 2000.

— Paul McCann

Accident-prone radio and television star Chris Tarrant has broken his leg - only a few weeks after falling out of a tree and breaking his arm.

Tarrant, 51, was bouncing on a pair of novelty boots his wife Ingrid had bought for his birthday when he fell over in agony. The DJ thought he had sprained his ankle on Sunday night but his doctor told him he had broken his leg in two places. He has had a metal plate inserted in his leg and cannot present his Capital FM Breakfast Show until next Monday. Tarrant, host of *Man O' War*, also recently gave himself a mild electric shock from a cattle fence while answering a call of nature on a riverbank.

He told listeners in a telephone call from his home yesterday: "I can't believe it... I went down like a sack of spuds. I've been Raw/plugged all up my leg."

Tarrant puts his foot in it

Accident-prone radio and television star Chris Tarrant has broken his leg - only a few weeks after falling out of a tree and breaking his arm.

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He told listeners in a telephone

UPDATE

HEALTH

Public gloom deepens over NHS

Public dissatisfaction with the running of the NHS has risen sharply over the past five years and yesterday's announcement of an extra £200m is unlikely to reverse the growing pessimism, according to a survey.

The proportion of people saying they were dissatisfied with the service rose from 18.4 per cent shortly before the election in 1992 to 28.6 per cent just before the 1997 election. The rise was most marked among professional people and those living in London. The change in public opinion, reported in *Health Care UK*, the annual review of health policy published by the Kings Fund, reflects unhappiness with the Government's handling of the NHS rather than with the professionals who work for it. Almost every survey ever undertaken shows high levels of satisfaction with GPs.

— Jeremy Lorraine

TECHNOLOGY

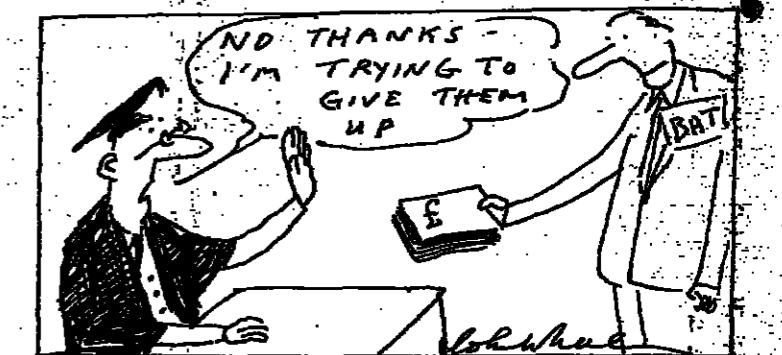
Internet spreads its web

One in 25 households in the UK now have an Internet connection, according to a survey released yesterday.

The number of home users has more than doubled from just under 400,000 in June 1996 to 960,000 a year later, claims the latest Internet User Profile Survey published by the NOP Research Group. Among those who have used the Internet, only 4 per cent of those surveyed said they intended to stop doing so in the near future. The survey also said that 6 million adults in the UK used the Internet in the year ending June 1997 - but about 9 million are expected to do so in the year ending June 1998.

CHARITY

'Tainted' tobacco money banned



A cancer charity announced yesterday that it would ban grants to research teams "tainted" by tobacco money.

The Cancer Research Campaign, which is providing £49m for research this year, issued a code of practice saying that in future it would not support any facility which received funding from the tobacco industry.

The draft code of practice, which is being circulated to vice chancellors for comment, was drawn up after the disclosure last year that British American Tobacco was to give £1.5m to Cambridge University to fund a chair of International Relations. In support of its move, the charity also published the findings of a MORI poll of 2,000 people which showed 76 per cent said they would distrust scientists working for the tobacco industry.

— Jeremy Lorraine

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.12	Italy (lira)	2.72
Austria (schillings)	19.38	Japan (yen)	194.42
Belgium (francs)	54.95	Malta (lira)	0.61
Canada (\$)	2.18	Netherlands (guilder)	3.11
Cyprus (pounds)	0.81	Norway (kroner)	10.09
Denmark (kroner)	10.56	Portugal (escudos)	228.88
France (francs)	9.26	Spain (pesetas)	322.25
Germany (marks)	2.77	Sweden (kroner)	8.96
Greece (drachmai)	437.57	Switzerland (francs)	2.30
Hong Kong (\$)	12.15	Turkey (lira)	274.67
Ireland (pounds)	1.08	USA (\$)	1.58

Source: Thomas Cook

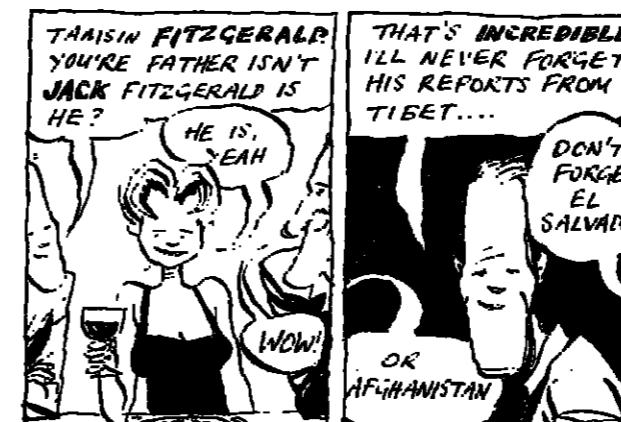
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New play reopens old Tory scandals

Two Conservative scandals are at the heart of a West End play opening this week. The play deals with the Profumo scandal and the affair between Lady Dorothy Macmillan and Lord Boothby. David Lister, Arts News Editor, reports on the first play to look at the former Prime Minister's wife's infidelity.

The cast is starry, the playwright hugely acclaimed and the subject matter sensitive. The love child that Macmillan's wife Dorothy had with Boothby has never before been the subject of a show in the West End of London.

And in *A Letter Of Resignation* opening tomorrow at the Comedy Theatre, it is far from being a matter of titillation. Hugh Whitemore, the playwright who is also responsible for adapting *A Dance To The Music Of Time* for television, attempts to show that Macmillan's

could not deal with the Profumo scandal in 1963 because of his own troubled history.

The play will imply that Profumo had a rough deal because Macmillan, the then Prime Minister, could not handle the subject of sex following his wife's affair which produced an illegitimate child, Sarah, who died in the Sixties.

Edward Fox stars as Macmillan, and Clare Higgins, a brilliant actress from the RSC and National Theatre, as Lady Dorothy. On its pre-West End run, Macmillan's

granddaughter came to see it and told Fox afterwards she had enjoyed it and was not offended.

She also told him a story about Macmillan entertaining Charles de Gaulle at his home and de Gaulle so offending the gamekeeper that the gamekeeper said: "Either he goes or I go." De Gaulle left at the end of the weekend. This was quickly incorporated into the play.

Hugh Whitemore spent a year researching the play and talked to people with close

links to both the Profumo and Macmillan stories, though he says he will not divulge any names.

He said yesterday: "I try to link up change in the body politic with change in a man's life."

The Profumo affair awakened in Macmillan dreadful memories of Dorothy's affair with Boothby which started in 1929. The affair continued for 30 years, and shortly after she told Macmillan he had a nervous breakdown in 1931.

"I'm not doing something sensational here. Macmillan didn't deal with Profumo very well and I'm suggesting that it was because it was all too close to home. People knew that sex was a subject you didn't discuss with the Prime Minister. Had he been more forthright with Profumo, they might have been able to clear it up."

"I very very much hope John Profumo will come to see it, because he did get a raw deal and he is mentioned with sympathy and understanding." Profumo does not actually

appear in the play, which moves between 1963 and 1929, but both Harold and Dorothy Macmillan are shown as being pro-Profumo.

Edward Fox said yesterday: "You see in this play just what a tragedy occurred. And you feel that what happened to these people could just as easily have happened to people in the audience."

"I think we haven't seen before how tragic the events of the Profumo situation were and how human and understandable."



Macmillan: Nervous collapse

Beethoven
Mozart,
Elgar... and
McCartney.
But how
good is
Macca's first
symphony?

Paul McCartney's first symphonic work, *Standing Stone*, received its premiere last night at the Royal Albert Hall, performed by the London Symphony Orchestra. Our critic Rob Cowan asked whether Beatle music had entered a great classical tradition.

Legend and landscape sit at the heart of Sir Paul McCartney's symphonic poem "Standing Stone". It's a return to Celtic roots, charted among large choral and orchestral forces, a dream of redemption, of victory and love. The tunes and ideas are McCartney's own, the architecture and the brightest clothes in his orchestral wardrobe have come care of his collaborators John Harle, Richard Rodney Bennett, David Matthews and jazz musician Steve Lodder.

McCartney's narrative had already found verbal fulfilment in a lengthy poem where primal chaos, flood and fire, father a man who awakens, boards a crystal ship, survives a storm, helps natives ward off invaders and ultimately finds love. It's the archetypal folk tale and suggests, at least to this listener, music in the raw - ruddy-faced tunes, angry rhythms, lonely solo-voices and tender dialogues. Some of them find their way into "Standing Stone".

The introduction gets back to basics on a rhythmic flurry of unstopped strings; the sparsely scored first minute or so of the Safe Haven that opens the third movement smells of heather, and the questioning Lament that symbolises primitive man's drug-induced recourse to the supernatural.



Standing on tradition: Sir Paul McCartney in the Royal Albert Hall yesterday, where his first symphony was played last night.

Photograph: David Rose

It has genuine pathos. Much of what is best in "Standing Stone" is simple, direct and selectively orchestrated - songful music that sits happily among a handful of players.

But most of the bigger guns misfire. When, for example, a messenger brings news of potential attack from foreign hordes, McCartney throws out a string of "foreign-sounding" tunes that skip aimlessly between instruments, and the effect is

vaguely comical. What should have been a disorientating Lost At Sea sounds like Benjamin Britten floundering at the edge of some atonal whirlpool. A wordless chorus suggests ethereal vistas à la Disney, while the finale's Eclipse conjures up oiled gladiators and blood-stained swords.

And yet, follow the same movement for another minute or so and the music suddenly becomes what one half-suspects it al-

ways wanted to be, contemplative and unself-conscious - and with especially sensitive use of solo strings.

Elsewhere, McCartney's gift for fancy is stifled by ill-fitting formality: what might have been a tousled, wind-blown Rustic Dance sounds like Malcolm Arnold on autopilot and the well-meant, conciliatory ending seems more like a flashback to earlier days at the Royal Albert Hall, when

massed choirs sang cosy anthems of the day. The "too many cooks" who helped fashion "Standing Stone's" voice and structure have ultimately depersonalised it.

"Standing Stone" seems more a "stepping stone" which I am convinced would have led further had McCartney followed his native musical instincts. He needs, in a sense, to go full circle, not to go square.

IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

THE FIRST PICTURES FROM INSIDE THE ASSISSI BASILICA

The award-winning photographer Brian Harris reveals the terrible damage to St Francis's church. Andrew Gumbel reports on the fight to restore it.



THE PLEASURE OF BEING MRS DAVID HELFGOTT

The woman who saved him talks about life with a pianist on the edge.

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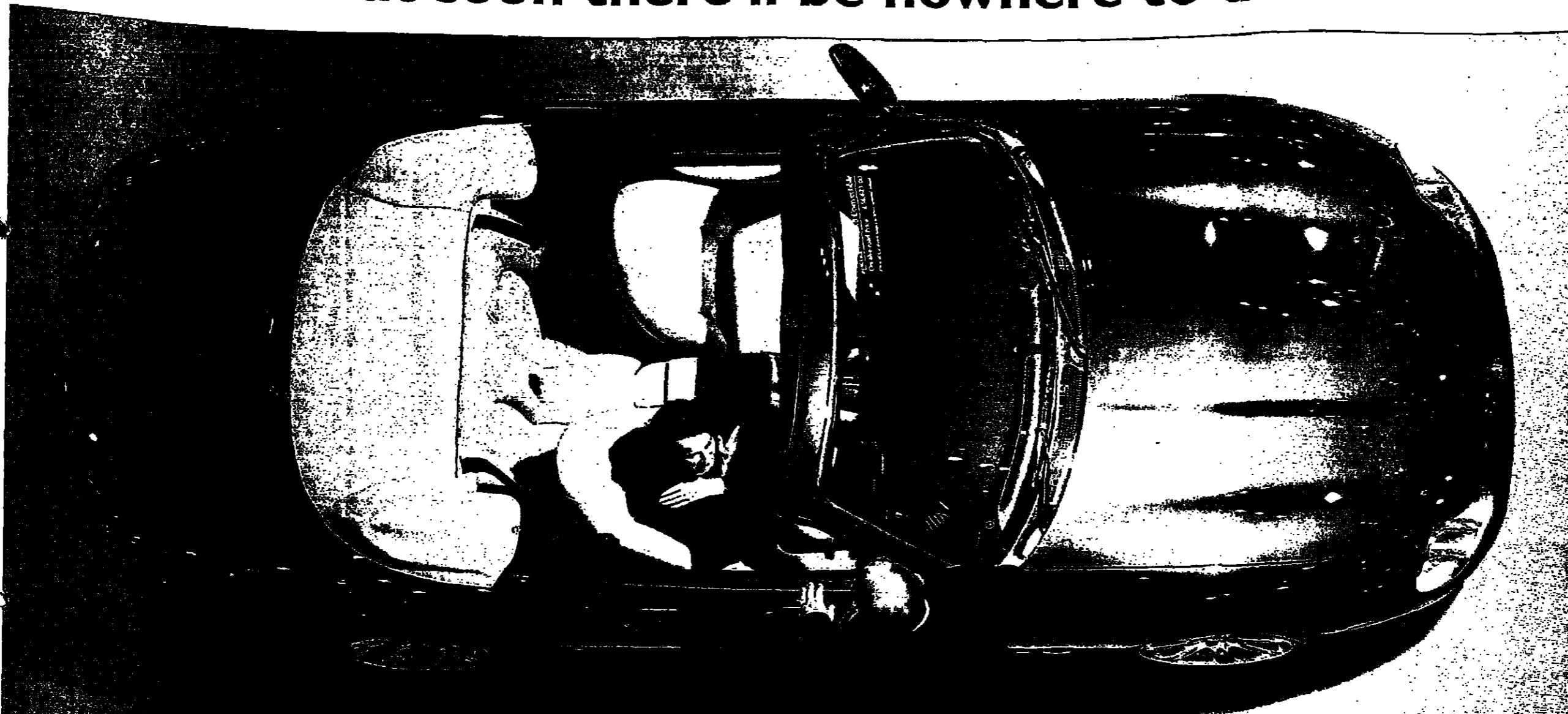
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Super car. But soon there'll be nowhere to drive it



Dream machine: High-speed cruisers like this Jaguar XK8 convertible seen at the London Motor Show could be made redundant in the next century as Britain approaches the nightmare of gridlock

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

A celebration of car culture kicked off yesterday with the launch of the London Motor Show.

Unfortunately, it opened just as government figures painted a bleak picture of clogged roads and choking cities in the 21st century. Randeep Ramesh examines why little has been done.

would grow from 1988 to 1996 by 25 per cent. In fact, it only managed to rise by 17 per cent.

Officials point out the figures rely less on economic growth and have a new way of calculating congestion. This assumes that when roads become saturated with traffic, motorists are deterred from driving.

Transport forecasting is notoriously difficult. The M25 was built to handle 80,000 cars and lorries a day – but two weeks after it was opened the orbital motorway was carrying 120,000 vehicles every 24 hours.

The motor industry – which has been extremely critical of the Government's green pronouncements – attacked the figures. Walter Hasselkus, chairman and chief executive of Rover, Britain's biggest car manufacturer, criticised the report warning the Government not to use "a far-fetched scenario like this as a stick with which to beat the car industry".

Ministers are not afraid of talking tough. Gavin Strang, the transport minister, has made it clear that building new roads

will be a "solution of last resort". As the new figures assume that no new roads will be built, the question remains whether the Government can cope with our apparently insatiable desire to drive.

There is little time left. Ministers need to come up with answers in just six months when Parliament receives the Government's White Paper on transport.

The radical measures required to curb traffic growth need the political will to tackle the road lobby and, more im-

portant, the public's addiction to the automobile.

The new administration is careful not to say that it wants to restrict car ownership. That would be deemed as unacceptable by the middle classes.

Labour assiduously courts

Instead, ministers are considering a mixture of measures such as road pricing, parking levies and giving buses priority over cars.

It is not going to be easy.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has said that he would like to see the end of the

"two-car" family. Unfortunately, according to his department's own figures, 25 per cent of households in Britain owned more than one car last year and, unless something is done, this will rise to 32 per cent in 2031 – fuelled by the growth in the number of women drivers.

The Government has also to deal with its commitment to cut 1990 carbon dioxide levels by 20 per cent by 2010. As nearly a quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions – the biggest cause of global warming – come from road transport, ministers will

have to persuade motorists to switch to public transport.

So far the Government has targeted short car journeys. But, as a recent report by transport consultants Colin Buchanan and Partners pointed out, "even when all journeys of up to 5 miles are included – almost 60 per cent of car journeys – these trips only account for 17 per cent of total vehicle miles".

As the amount of carbon dioxide produced is roughly proportional to the number of car miles, reducing these shorter urban trips will not affect car

bon dioxide levels. Experts agree that less traffic would, however, alleviate the fumes that choke most urban streets.

Ministers could repeat the recent Parisian experiment of only allowing cars with certain registration plates to enter the city in order to reduce pollution levels. Alternatively, the Government could close the roads to traffic. An experiment in Edinburgh, which closed down one side of Princes Street, saw nitrogen dioxide levels drop by 40 per cent and road accident rates drop by 34 per cent.

Another option would be to introduce road tolls. The only way that this could be sold to a tax-happy public would be to use the money collected to improve public transport. However, in order to raise revenue ministers would need to keep charges low, while the only way to deter drivers would be set high tolls.

"One thing is certain, something has to be done," said one senior civil servant. "This is not a future that we would like to see."

Business Outlook, page 25

The amount of traffic on the roads could increase by 51 per cent over the next 20 years and motorway journeys could take twice as long, according to the National Traffic Forecasts.

The figures, the first for seven years, show the scale of the problem facing the Government. However, the numbers released yesterday are considerably better than those predicted in 1989. Then, civil servants predicted that traffic

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GRB23

Family conflict linked to children's height and well-being

Children raised in an atmosphere of domestic tension are almost twice as likely to be below average height than those brought up in happier circumstances. Jeremy Laurence, Health Editor, looks at the implications of short stature in childhood for success in adulthood.

Family conflict slows children's growth and has potential long-term consequences for their health and well-being, scientists say.

A study of 6,500 children born in the same week found that almost 300-45 per cent

-had experienced conflict as a result of domestic tension, divorce, separation or desertion, as judged by a health visitor. On average, at age seven, they were 10 centimetres shorter than the other children.

Previous studies have shown that men who were short as children are more likely to be unemployed as adults, whatever their education and background. One study showed that among the tallest 20 per cent at age seven, 8 per cent were unemployed while among the shortest 20 per cent, 30 per cent were unemployed.

Height at age seven is a better predictor of adult unemployment than adult height. The reason is thought to be that slow growth may not itself be a disadvantage but is an indicator of damaging influences on

cognitive and psychological development in childhood which has long-term consequences.

Dr Scott Montgomery, chief author of the study published in *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, said: "Stress in childhood begins a cycle of disadvantage and at every stage throughout their lives, these children accumulate health risks. Short men die younger and suffer more sickness."

Dr Montgomery, of the department of medicine at the Royal Free Hospital, London, said acute stress stimulates production of human growth hormone which controls metabolism and is important in the "fight or flight" response, as well as being essential for growth. Chronic stress, however, dulls the response by increasing levels of beta-endorphin, a brain

chemical which reduces the amount of growth hormone released. Gluco-corticoid levels are also increased which interferes with the development of the hippocampus, the area of the brain that deals with learning and memory.

Experiments with rats subjected to stress showed they could not learn the route through a maze as well as those that were not stressed.

The study also showed that children from the most crowded households were three times more likely to be short for their age than those from the least crowded homes. The researchers say this may be because overcrowding is associated with poverty, which is linked with poorer health, or because it disrupts sleep, when growth hormone is released.



Word play: Poets Murray Lachlan Young and Jessica D'Este at Cheltenham. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Son gives rhyme and reason for poet's achievements

Adam Horovitz is an angry young man. Stomping around the bars and performance venues of the Cheltenham Festival, the son of the establishment poet Michael Horovitz is outraged by his father's dismissive comments last week about the rock star's performance poet Murray Lachlan Young. "His work sucks," Horovitz senior had spluttered. "It's not poetry."

The young pretender, who recently signed an EMI recording deal for £1.1m, double the amount Seamus Heaney received for the Nobel prize for literature, performed to a packed room of 30 people on the fringe of the festival. Horovitz junior was there, cheering through the lyrics to "Everyone's Taking Cocaine", and whooping it up to a 30-second number on the trials and tribulations of being a supermodel.

At the end of the performance, Adam could contain himself no longer. "Murray Lachlan Young," he barked, "has done more for poetry in the last five months than my father has done in the last five years." Relations, it seems, are strained.

Horovitz junior, who will be performing poems from his recent anthology, *Hoo-Hah Poets*, just doesn't know what his father's problem is. "At least Murray is turning people on to poetry." And will Horovitz senior be coming down to Cheltenham to add support to Adam's *Hoo-Hah* extravaganza?

"Umm, no, he's kind of busy."

Sam Taylor



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DAILY POEM

A Quiet Night

by Edwin Brock

*It was a quiet night, you will remember;
warm, with a little mist among the trees;
we had left two children sleeping; the ease
of ten years' loving was between. You were
in a broken mood, remember? I talked
as though I understood the world; the mist
between the trees, concealing lovers, kissed
your mood and pulled your hair uncurled. We walked*

*where we had been before we married; quiet
it was with my voice drooping on; ten years
I talked away before I carried your mood
and you to where the grass was long, and tight
our love became to loose your worries,
as soft your song becomes when I intrude.*

The Daily Poems for the rest of this week commemorate Edwin Brock, who died last month. They come from his *Five Ways to Kill a Man: new and selected poetry* (£7.95), published by Einitharmon Press at 36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD.

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Baby's eye injuries showed extreme force, court told

The baby whom British nanny Louise Woodward is accused of *murdering* was shaken or slammed down with a force equal to being hit by a lorry or train, her trial heard yesterday.

Matthew Eappen's eye injuries showed extreme force had been used on him - equalising nine on a scale of severity from one to 10, eye specialist Lois Smith told the court.

Dr Smith was giving evidence in the Middlesex Superior Court in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as the trial of 19-year-old Ms Woodward, of Elton, near Chester, entered its second week.

Dr Smith, an ophthalmologist, told the prosecuting lawyer, Gerry Leone, that she had seen "many hundreds" of cases of accidental trauma in children. The type of haemorrhages found in nine-month-old Matthew's eyes was "very, very rarely" seen in accident cases - in fewer than 1 per cent.

"It was seen in a case of a child in a baby carriage that was hit by a truck, but never in what we call household accidental trauma," she said. "It is a very extreme amount of force that is required, such as being hit by a train or falling from five storeys."

Dr Smith said the injuries would have to be inflicted by a combination of severe shaking and impact. They were caused minutes or only up to an hour or two before the baby was admitted to Boston's Children's Hospital on 4 February. He died in a coma five days later.

Ms Woodward denies first degree murder, which carries a life sentence without parole.

The prosecution alleges that Ms Woodward shook the child and slammed his head against a hard surface in a rage because she was frustrated by his crying and fed up with working for Matthew's parents, Deborah and Sunil Eappen, of Newton, near Boston.

The case continues.

But the defence claims the baby's massive brain injuries could have arisen from an undetected skull fracture, which was suffered earlier and probably accidental.

Dr Smith said yesterday that she believed all Matthew's injuries were suffered at the same time. If the injuries had been present earlier, the baby would not have appeared normal, could not have been fed earlier on the day he was killed and would not have been able to cry normally.

If the injuries had been present earlier, Matthew would have had breathing problems and would have appeared comatose soon after he was injured.

Dr Smith agreed that folds in the retina associated with impact injuries had not been noted on a drawing by a doctor who examined the baby on his admission to hospital. She saw them when she examined the eyes after Matthew's death.

Barry Scheck, for the defence, asked her if it was a fundamental part of her testimony that the first doctor's drawing was wrong and that he had missed the folds and haemorrhages.

She replied: "Yes."

Mr Scheck asked: "If you are right about the mechanics of how these folds happened, that should have been in?"

She said: "He should have drawn it, yes."

Later she agreed with Mr Scheck that "the doctor just didn't draw what was there".

Mr Scheck asked her about the force of the impact the baby must have suffered and her comparison to that of a baby carriage being hit by a car or truck. Dr Smith said: "I said if it was just impact it would have to be that kind of force. With a combination it is different. You can get these injuries from shaking alone."

The case continues.



Unwilling star: Sid Rawle, whose face was used in an advertisement promoting the Halifax

Photograph: Nick Turpin

Hippie's complaint over advert fails

The Advertising Standards Authority has turned down a complaint from green campaigner and free festival organiser Sid Rawle about an advertising campaign that put words in his mouth. The case reveals that compared with celebrities, there is little protection for ordinary members of the public whose image appears in advertisements.

Mr Rawle, once known as "King of the Hippies", was used by the advertising agency Bates Dorland in a poster promoting the Halifax free festival's bid to convert to a bank.

The photograph was taken in 1982 when Mr Rawle was presiding at a baby-naming ceremony at the Stonehenge free festival. Bates Dorland obtained it from a picture agency and claimed not to

know that Mr Rawle was well-known. "I feel used and abused," Mr Rawle said yesterday. "Having spent 20 years in the Green Party I was totally against building societies turning from ethical, mutual societies into banks. It made it look like I was shouting 'Go and vote yourselves a £1,000 folks'."

The poster pictured him with a speech bubble coming out of his mouth saying "Be a part of something big, man."

"These are words put into my mouth that I disagree with and that make me look stupid," said Mr Rawle, who claims that an orchestra conductor used in a similar poster was contacted for his permission.

However, the ASA's regulations allowed the use of Mr Rawle because he wasn't famous enough to make money

from his own image and because he was part of a crowd scene. The ASA also ruled that the words coming out of Mr Rawle's mouth did not portray him in a negative manner or imply approval of the Halifax's planned conversion to a bank.

A spokesman for the ASA said people were only protected if they were likely to be portrayed in an offensive way or if they can make money from their own image.

"Basically they are saying 'If you are famous you get protected,'" said Mr Rawle. "And obviously you need to be really, really famous. The little person stands no chance at all up against big corporations and the ASA."

Bates Dorland declined to comment on the case.

— Paul McCann

WHEN FACES DID NOT FIT

The ASA ruled in favour of the Lord Chamberlain's office when it complained on behalf of Princess Diana on two occasions.

Once was against Live TV! which superimposed Paul Gascoigne's face on Prince Charles' shoulders.

It also ruled against *Insider* magazine which pictured the princess in a PVC cat suit.

Virginia Bottomley succeeded in a complaint against a private health care scheme which pictured the then health secretary in an advert above the strapline: "Our patients never suffer from this terrible pain."

Shake-up at CSA leads to job fears

The Child Support Agency, which seeks to secure maintenance payments from absent parents for their children, yesterday confirmed plans for a radical reorganisation.

Under the proposals, the agency will shift routine processing of maintenance claims from its 250 local offices to its six central service units. Benefits Agency staff will take over part of the job of interviewing single-parents face-to-face in their homes.

The CSA also seeks to offer a seven-day-a-week telephone enquiries service, based on those operated by organisations like banks.

A CSA spokeswoman said the four-year plan was designed to save money, as required by the Government, and to improve services to customers.

When the agency was first established in 1993, the idea was to centralise claims processing at six regional units in Belfast, Birkenhead, Falkirk, Dudley, Hastings and Plymouth, but some is now done in local offices. The spokeswoman said that under the reorganisation local staff could concentrate on cases that required face-to-face contact, such as dealing with disputed maternity cases, or court work.

"Our main aim is to simplify the application process for lone parents and to ensure that they get their money as soon as possible," she said.

"Many customers want the application process to be as simple as possible. We also hope to enable more calls to be made outside normal working hours."

She stressed that the reorganisation did not imply compulsory redundancies and large scale job losses.

"It is not as if we are having this shake-up overnight. It will happen over four years and gradually. If there will be cases of local office closures that staff may be offered redeployment," she said.

But trade unions representing Child Support Agency staff called for further discussions with the Government and users about the reorganisation.

The joint Secretary of the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union, John Sheldon, said: "Our first concern is to ensure no staff are forced to take compulsory redundancy and that all staff who want to transfer to regional centres or to other posts are able to do so."

"However, we welcome closer working between the Child Support Agency and the Benefits Agency which should help to improve service quality."

Police officer cleared of murder

The first officer in England to be charged with murder after shooting a suspect while on duty was cleared yesterday of unlawfully killing a car thief.

Constable Patrick Hodgson, 49, was found not guilty at the Old Bailey of both the murder and manslaughter of David Ewin, 38, in a busy London street. He had denied both murder and manslaughter of Mr Ewin who was shot in Barnes, south-west London in February 1995.

The officer was part of the crew of an armed response vehicle that had spotted the stolen Toyota sports car parked outside a shop.

John Bevan QC, for the prosecution, alleged that Mr Hodgson had other options and did not fire as a last resort.

Mr Ewin who was high on drugs and drink at the time of the incident and was out on licence from a five-year term for armed robbery. He was a west London villain, known to the police for 20 years. His previous convictions included assault, and theft of motor vehicles.

But Mr Hodgson knew nothing of this when he approached him - he believed he was a car thief.

It is the third time Mr Hodgson has faced trial after juries

failed to return a verdict. Instructions to all armed police officers state that a gun may be fired only as a last resort.

An oral warning, designed to make the target give up, must be given when practicable. The usual words are: "Stop, armed police." They are trained to shoot at the torso.

Mr Ewin's mother, Jean, said yesterday: "People steal cars all the time. There was no need to shoot."

PC Hodgson's future is now being considered by the Metropolitan Police and the Police Complaints Authority.

— Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

Elephant ivory seizure wins prize for customs officer

One of Britain's largest seizures of smuggled elephant ivory came to light yesterday when Charles Mackay, a customs officer, was awarded a wildlife law enforcement prize by the conservation charity WWF.

Alerted by cargo handlers at Gatwick Airport, he and his team confiscated a third of a tonne of ivory, which was chopped up, carried in trunks and misdescribed on the accompanying paperwork as the green mineral malachite.

Some was decades old and some very fresh, and it represented the remains of about 30 elephants. The ivory was en route from Zambia to Malaysia, flouting an international ban. Customs kept the seizure in May secret, contacted their opposite numbers in Malaysia and allowed some of the cargo to fly on to its destination in the hope that whoever arrived to pick it up could be arrested. But no one ever came, which suggests that the news was leaked to the smugglers.

— Nicholas Schoon

UN to investigate RUC

The United Nations has announced an investigation into allegations of intimidation and harassment of defence lawyers by the RUC. Param Cumaraswami, the UN special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, will arrive in Northern Ireland next week on a 10-day fact-finding mission to examine claims of threatening behaviour, harassing phone calls and discriminatory prison treatment.

The investigation was initiated following what UN sources described as "consistent and numerous" complaints from lawyers via human rights organisations over the last three years.

Mr Cumaraswami will also investigate claims that terrorist prisoners have had difficulty getting access to legal advice and representation. He will look into regulations under which prisoners accused of terrorist offences can only receive close visits from their lawyers if they are separated by a screen.

— Harriet Martin

Colleges 'need crisis cash'

Education colleges need £200m extra a year merely to stave off financial crisis, MPs were told yesterday.

The figure, revealed by college funding leaders to the House of Commons Education and Employment Committee, takes no account of extra money needed to help reach Tony Blair's target of half a million more students in further and higher education by 2002.

On the first day of its six-month inquiry into the role, funding and governance of further education, the committee heard that increasing numbers of colleges were in severe financial trouble.

Where 25 colleges, representing 6 per cent of the sector, were in a financially weak position in 1994, 119 colleges fall into that category now. Professor David Melville, chief executive of the Further Education Funding Council agreed with committee member and Liberal Democrat education spokesman, Don Foster, that the situation was "incredibly worrying".

The Prime Minister pledged at Labour's Brighton Conference last month to increase student numbers by 500,000 within this Parliament. This would cost at least £1bn.

WHO WILL PROTECT US?

THE PEACEMAKER

SPECIAL PREVIEWS AT CINEMAS THIS SUNDAY

DREAMWORKS PICTURES

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Meanwhile a French court rejected a lawsuit by Greenpeace accusing France's state-owned nuclear firm Cogema of dumping radioactive waste in the sea off northern France.

— Nicholas Schoon

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Damning report on managers in Rikki Neave case

up at
leads
fears

Children at risk in
Cambridgeshire are still
not being protected by
social services. A
damning report into the
Rikki Neave case blames
the management and
not social workers for
failures which led to the
death. Glenda Cooper,
Social Affairs
correspondent, and Steve
Bogdon, say they have got
off scot free.

Three years after six-year-old
Rikki Neave was found strangled
near his home in Peterborough
children are still at risk of "sig-
nificant harm and neglect", ac-
cording to a critical Social
Services Inspectorate Report.

The men in charge of Cam-
bridgeshire social services at the
time of the failures have either
retired or moved on to other top
jobs and have not been pun-
ished. The report found that the
department took more than
two years to implement an ac-
tion plan to address flaws in its
child protection services – but
those changes are already be-
hind schedule.

The report, which criticises
outdated procedures, serious
shortcomings, and "unaccept-
ably low-quality" services,
places the blame squarely on
management shoulders. How-
ever, only three frontline staff
were disciplined. Four senior
executives as the top of the
management structure in place at
the time have all left the coun-
cil. The council stressed this was
not connected to Rikki's death.
But Brian Waller, acting Social
Services director, said of their
departure: "You can draw your
own conclusions."

Rikki was found dead in a
small copse near his home on the
Welland Estate in late 1994.
Last October his mother Ruth
was found not guilty of killing
him, but was jailed for seven
years for cruelty. She had per-
sistently asked social services to
take him into care.

Earlier this year a report by
the Bridge childcare consul-
tancy found Rikki had been
"failed" by social services, list-
ing blunders over missing files,
lack of communication and
confusion as to whether Rikki
was on the at-risk register.

The chief executive at the
time, Gordon Lister, acknowl-
edged that care had fallen "be-
low acceptable levels". Last
month, Mr Lister left the coun-

cil and became chief executive
of the Papworth Trust, a charity
dedicated to helping people
with physical disabilities.

Despite the criticism of his
regime at Cambridgeshire –
where he reportedly earned
£95,000 a year – he declined to
comment yesterday.

When the SSI inspected
Cambridgeshire in April and
May this year, they found that
progress was so "limited" that
they concluded "Inspectors can-
not yet provide sufficient rea-
son... about the safety of
children and young people from
the risk of significant harm."

As a result, they recom-
mended a further inspection be

THE KEY FAILURES

- 1 Children at risk of abuse not identified in a consistent way.
- 2 Work rarely based on a thorough written assessment of risk to the child.
- 3 "Unfocused passive work largely dictated by parents."
- 4 Case recordings weak and outdated procedures still in place.
- 5 Major shortcomings in assessments and care plans.
- 6 Action plan took two years before implementation.
- 7 Some groups developing guidance already behind schedule.
- 8 Many staff not aware of the action plan.
- 9 Low ratio of children's social workers led to high case loads.
- 10 Training opportunities limited because of workload pressure.

carried out next year.

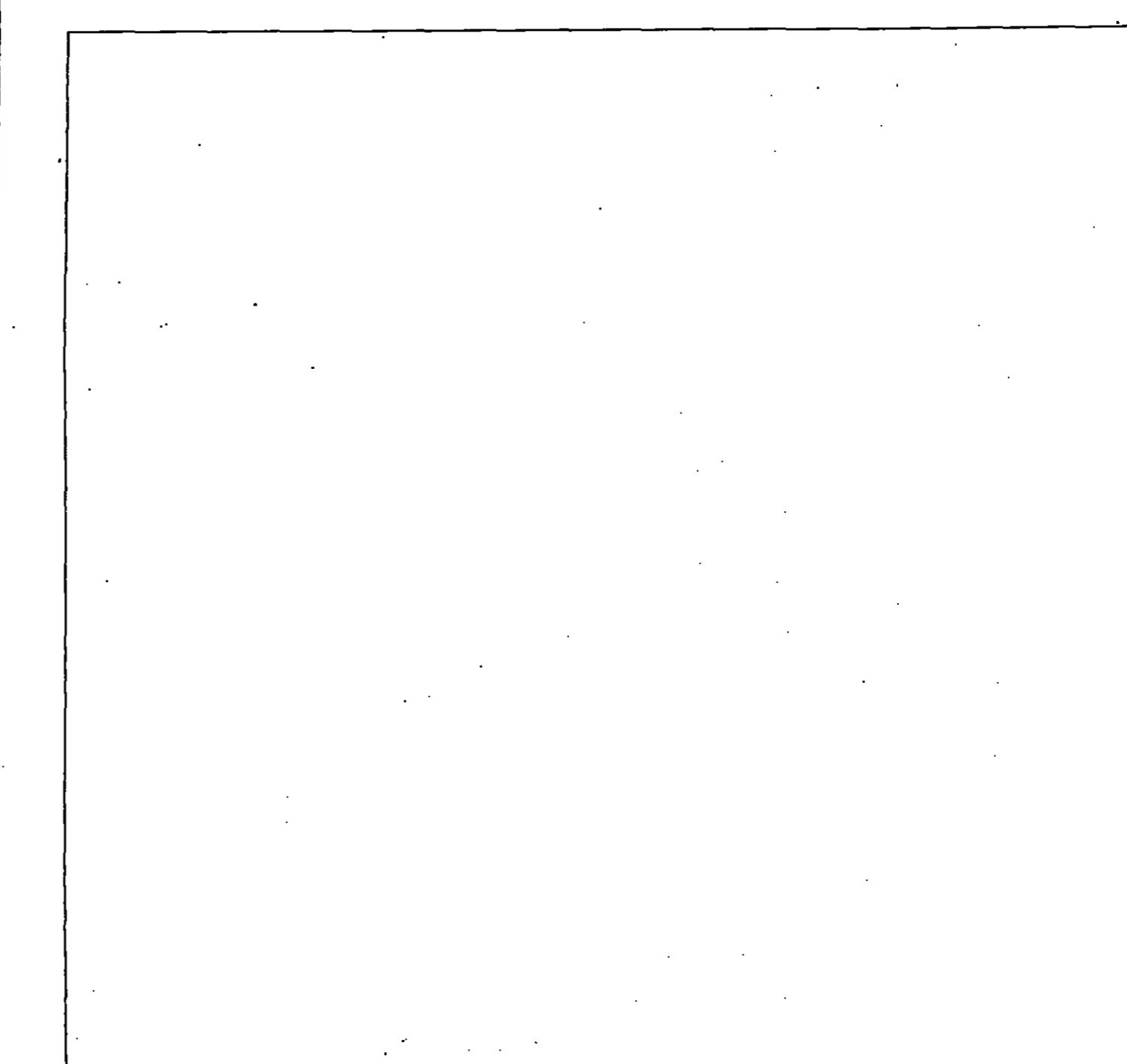
Inspectors found that risks to
children were not identified in
a consistent way, and minutes of
child protection conferences
were "often provided too late
to be of any value. The result
was unfocused, passive work
which was in some cases largely
dictated by the parents to the
possible detriment of their chil-
dren's welfare."

Case recording was weak,
and work was also limited by
outdated procedures. Morale
amongst front-line staff was
low, and they did not consider
managers were giving a clear
sense of direction.

"Our report shows that, de-
spite past statements by the
council, serious and deep con-
cerns remain about its ability to
manage and practice.



A report finds the management of Cambridgeshire social services to blame in the death in 1994 of Rikki Neave (left), whose mother Ruth (right) had repeatedly asked them to take her son into care and who was last October found guilty of cruelty and jailed for seven years



Police keep watch on freed paedophile

Robert Oliver was one
of a gang of paedophiles
who killed 14-year-old
Jason Swift. Now he is
moving around the
country and was in
Brighton yesterday,
under police
surveillance. Kim
Sengupta examines the
problem society faces
with a freed sex
offender.



It is every parent's nightmare,
to discover that a sex killer is
living in their midst. That is
what happened after the police
and social services took the
unusual step of revealing that
Robert Oliver had moved into
the Brighton area. They
added, that in their view, he
presented "a significant threat
to the safety of young men and
boys in the area".

Oliver is now under police
surveillance. This is not just to
ensure that he does not attack
local children, but to protect
him from vigilante action if his
location became known. Priv-
ately, senior police and social
service officers agree it is
only a matter of time before he
is forced to leave town.

He has already been
bounced out of a house at
Swindon, Wiltshire, after his
release from prison last
month, and then attacked after
moving to a hostel in
Whitechapel, east London.
He has also been to Dublin.

already had three convictions
for assaults on boys. While in
prison for the Swift killing he
is reported to have boasted to
fellow prisoners that he would
kill again when free.

Sussex police discovered
last Thursday that Oliver had
moved to Brighton. After a cri-
sis meeting with social services,
education, and probation rep-
resentatives, the police de-
cided to alert residents using
new powers provided by the
Sex Offenders Act 1977.

A detective inspector vis-
ited Oliver at his address to
warn him about his conduct,
and plans are being drawn up
for schools and youth organ-
isations to be alerted.

Detective Chief Inspector
George Smith, of Brighton
CID, said: "We are taking all
the necessary steps to ensure
the safety of the public." An-
other senior officer said: "It is
only a matter of time before his
whereabouts become known,
then he is bound to leave the
area. What happens after that
is anybody's guess. I am afraid
there is no satisfactory solution
to what we do with these peo-
ple at the moment."

Oliver's presence is a
source of deep concern for
Brighton residents. Marie
Corrigan, who has a four-
year-old son, said: "Can you
think of anything more wor-
rying? All of us feel angry
about this. We simply don't
feel safe." Wendy Wheeler, a
mother-of-three added: "This
man must go. I don't care
where he goes to, as long as he
goes away from here."

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Heavy drinking fuels rise in violence

Crimes involving violence are increasing despite a continued downturn in the number of recorded offences. Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent, hears that money and alcohol are largely to blame.

Violent crime is rising as more people can now afford to drink to excess and are becoming drunk and disorderly, the Home Office's chief statistician revealed yesterday.

It was also disclosed that the total number of offences recorded is a gross underestimate with the real figure being up to 60 million crimes a year rather than the official tally of five million.

The news came as police figures showed that recorded crimes in England and Wales dropped by 5.5 per cent in the past year to 4.8 million, thanks largely to a fall in the number of car thefts and burglaries.

But the good news was overshadowed by a 5 per cent increase in violent crimes to

300,000, which includes a 15 per cent hike in offences of rape to 6,375. This included 320 male rapes. Experts believe some of the total increase is due to greater willingness of women to go to the police, although only an estimated 10 to 20 per cent of cases are reported.

The number of offences involving violence that was life-threatening increased by more than 10 per cent to 23,300.

Chris Nuttall, director of the Home Office research and statistics directorate, blamed the rise in violence largely on a growing number of people who could afford to drink large quantities of alcohol and then got into fights.

He said: "Changes in violent crime are related to the economy. They seem to relate to the consumption of beer - mostly in pubs and clubs. Drug consumption is more likely to affect property crime."

Mr Nuttall announced that from next year the police would use a different system of recording crime which would for the first time include offences such as common assault, cruelty to children, dangerous driving, and assault on a police constable. He

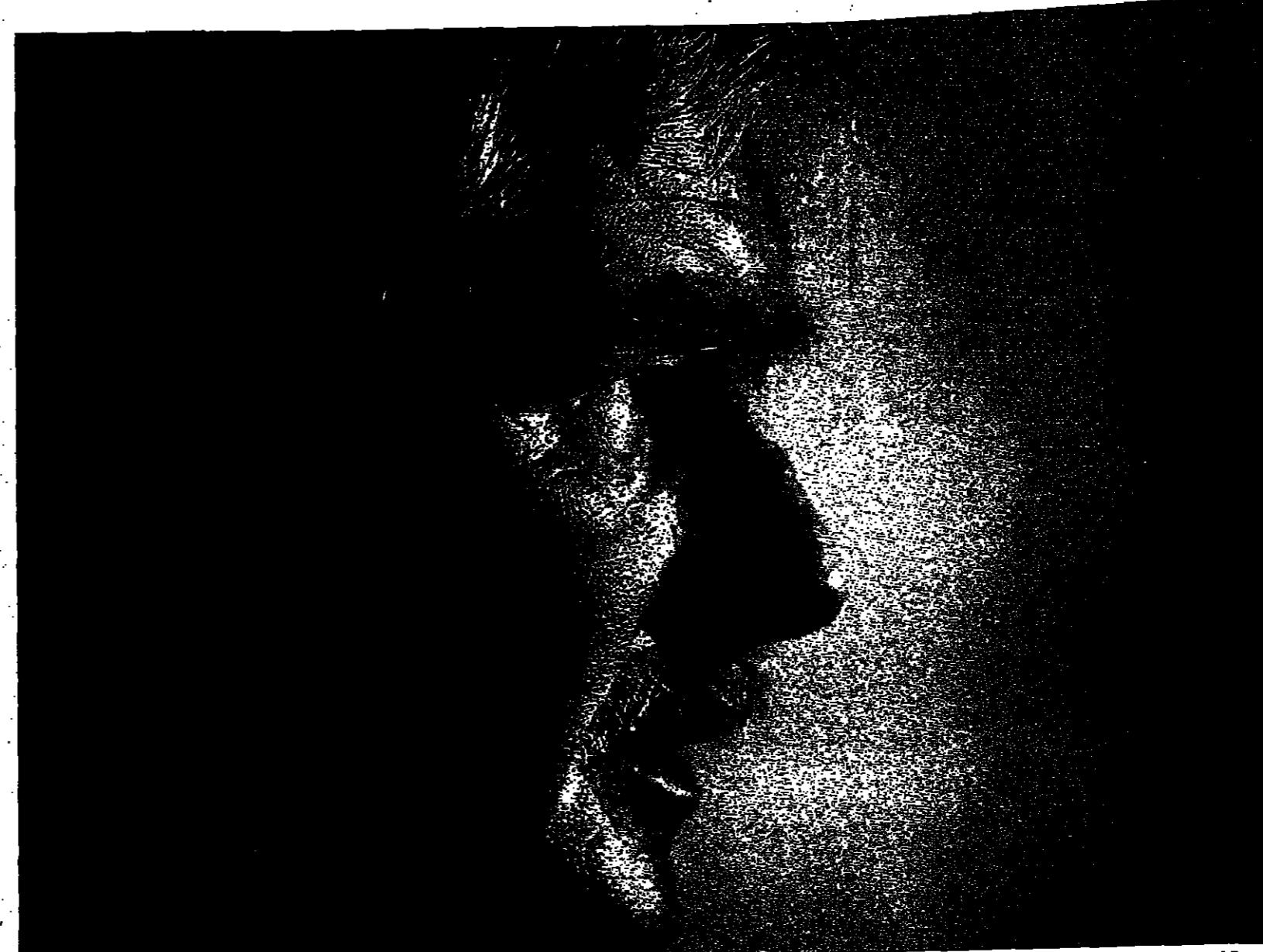
estimated that this would result in a 20 per cent increase in the number of crimes recorded.

He also emphasised that the offences recorded by the police were only a small proportion of the actual number of crimes, because most were either not reported to the police or not recorded. He said a more accurate estimate could be up to about 68 million offences.

Only five of the 43 police forces in England and Wales recorded more crimes. The Metropolitan Police recorded 850,000 - a 5 per cent rise - with offences involving sex and violence up by a third. Violent crimes also rose sharply in Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Gwent, Devon and Cornwall and Sussex. Northumbria had the biggest reduction in crime, dropping by 17 per cent.

The figures were welcomed by Alun Michael, the home office minister, although David Phillips, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' crime committee, said the rise in violent offences was "a serious cause for concern".

• *Notifiable Offences, England and Wales July 1996 - June 1997* is available from the Home Office on 0171 273 2084.



Keith Hellawell: The tsar's first task is to draw up a national strategy for dealing with the burgeoning drug problem

Photograph: David Rose

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'Tsar' Hellawell rules out legalisation of drugs

The country's first drugs "tsar" was formally appointed yesterday. But as Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent, discovers, there are worries that he lacks the funds to make the initiative a success.

A national debate on the use of drugs won the support of the "tsar" yesterday, but any question of decriminalisation or legalisation were rejected.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, and the police chief's spokesman on drugs, said his first task was to draw up a national strategy for dealing with the burgeoning problem.

Considered a controversial, but forward-thinking person, Mr Hellawell said he was confident that he could make a real

impact in his £102,000-a-year role as UK Anti-drugs Co-ordinator.

Drug agencies yesterday welcomed the initiative but criticised the lack of funding.

The appointment coincided with the publication of Home Office figures that show the number of registered drug addicts increased last year by 17 per cent to 43,400 - although this is only a tiny proportion of users.

New addicts aged under 21 rose by a third and the number of drug-related deaths rose to about 1,800 in 1995, up by about 180 on the previous year.

Mr Hellawell, 55, who has hit the headlines with ideas such as legalising brothels, said he welcomed discussions about soft drugs. "The debate on decriminalisation has gone on for some time. I'm happy for the debate to go on, but it needs to be informed," he said.

He added: "All that I have seen over the years about that

debate has led me to believe that decriminalisation or legalisation would not help."

Ann Taylor, chair of the Cabinet sub-committee on drugs, said that the three key objectives for the forthcoming strategy were to reduce drug supply, health risks and demand amongst young people.

Mr Hellawell will be aided by his deputy Michael Trace, 36, currently Director of the Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners' Trust, and a staff of six.

The drug chief will have direct access to the Prime Minister but no new money.

Mike Goodman, director of Release, the drugs and legal advice group, said: "It is unfortunate that the Government have refused extra funding for treatment and education and refused to look at the case for reforming the drug laws," he said.

"Regrettably that is like tying the hands of the drug tsar behind his back."

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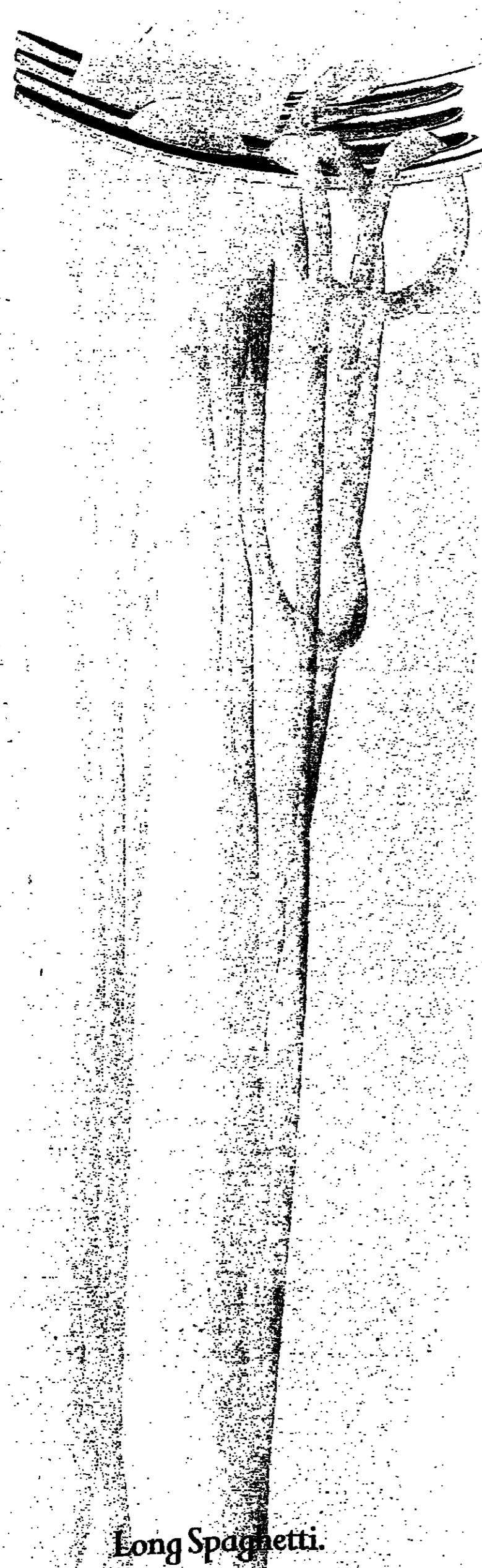
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Middle East and Asia send arms trade soaring

In another banner year for the international arms trade, Britain has reinforced its position as the world's second largest weapons exporter.

As Rupert Cornwell reports, the trend stems from familiar tensions in the Middle East as well as new ones centred on China.

The latest survey of the London-based defence think tank, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), is unequivocal. In the West, defence spending may be falling after the end of the Cold War, but for the world's arms salesmen, boom times are here again. After jumping 13 per

cent in 1995, arms sales rose 8 per cent to \$40bn (£25bn) last year, with Britain one of the prime beneficiaries.

According to yesterday's edition of *The Military Balance*, for defence analysts what *Wisden* is for cricket lovers, only the United States, with 43 per cent, outstripped Britain's 22 per cent share of the international arms market. France was third with 14 per cent and Russia accounted for just 8 per cent, compared with over 35 per cent in the heyday of the Soviet Union.

This year, the UK's performance may be hampered by the tougher arms sales guidelines promised by the Labour government under its new "ethical" foreign policy. In 1996, however, deliveries under huge existing contracts with Saudi Arabia helped lift Britain's arms sales to a record \$8.8bn (£5.4bn).

As throughout the last decade, Saudi Arabia was by far the largest individual market with purchases of \$9bn in 1996 – almost three times those of the next largest importer, Egypt, lifting the total of Saudi imports since 1987 to \$90bn (£55bn).

But while the Middle East, where tensions are increasing anew, is likely to remain for the foreseeable future the largest single market for arms, China's emergence as a regional superpower, Japan's higher defence posture and dynamic local economies have combined to push East Asia rapidly up the league table. In 1996, the region took 23 per cent of international arms deliveries, with the fastest growth in Singapore, China and Indonesia – the latter now a target of curbs on exports from Britain as a result of its repressive policies in East Timor.

Even so, the IISS noted yesterday, internal conflicts in the states of the region were at their lowest ebb in 30 years. China might not yet have the military resources "to project a major conventional force beyond its territory", the survey argued, but its neighbours are clearly taking no chances.

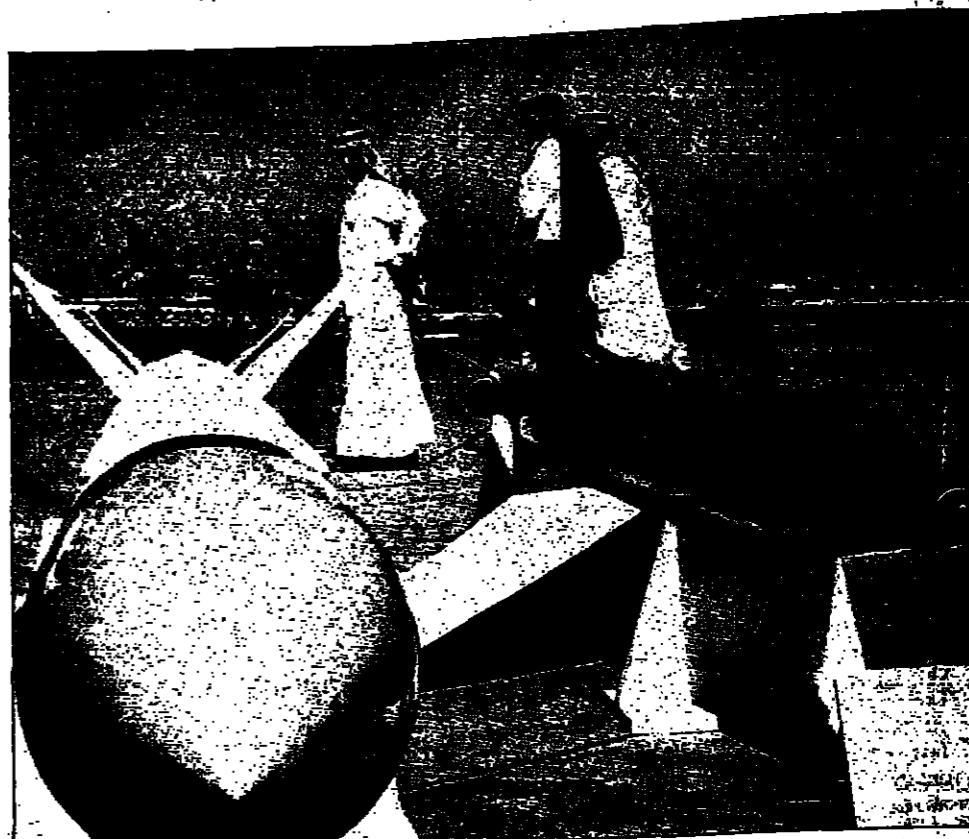
The arms purchases were "clearly geared to external use", Michael Williams, chief Asia specialist of the IISS, said yesterday, pointing to a host of developments including Thailand's commissioning of an aircraft carrier, the *Chakri Naruebet*, and the first deliveries of new F-16 and Mirage combat aircraft to Taiwan.

Contrary to the hopes of the US arms industry, one group of countries unlikely to be providing major new orders are Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. All three are theoretically required to modernise their armed forces in preparation for Nato membership; in practice a lack of money will delay significant extra defence spending for years.

"The real outcome will be decided by what they can afford, rather than what the US regards as a military requirement," notes the IISS.

Nor will the US get much joy from older members of the Alliance in its attempts to spread the \$35bn-plus bill for Nato enlargement. European public opinion is squarely against any extra defence spending, and is unlikely to be impressed by threats in the US Senate to tie US approval of enlargement to a cut in the amount Washington must pay.

"The omens are not good for burden sharing," the survey declared with notable understatement.



Boom times: Prospective buyers inspect missiles at an arms fair in Dubai. The Middle East is likely to remain the largest market for weapons

Photograph: Frank Spooner

Defence technology gap threatens Nato survival

A senior Nato official warned yesterday that if the growing gap in defence technology between the United States and Nato countries in Europe widened further, Europe's defences could be impaired and this would be "a political disaster" for Nato.

He was addressing a gathering of political and defence industry leaders organised by the Washington-based European Institute, an independent forum on European-US relations.

The meeting, which was held yesterday to coincide with the US Army Association exhibition and conference, heard a pessimistic assessment of the state of the Alliance as it prepares for the addition of three new European members.

One remedy which US Nato officials favoured was the creation of a joint US-European committee within the Alliance to consider the question of co-operation in weapons development and procurement.

Industry representatives, however, expressed reservations about this, venturing that procurement could then become even more political and more delays and rows could result.

America's fears stem from a belief that the pace of defence sector restructuring since the end of the Cold War has been "different" on the two sides of the Atlantic, that the Europeans have only consolidated their defence industries to a limited extent and mostly within national borders.

Cross-border cooperation, the Americans complain, has been very slow to develop, and this threatens defence co-operation with the US.

Challenging the realism of French aims for the European arm of Nato to become more self-sufficient, the US Nato official said: "Europe will never have self-confidence in its own security if it has to hand over to others the instruments needed to protect that security."

Mary Dejevsky

Funds inquiry targets Clinton

The US attorney general, Janet Reno, announced yesterday that she was extending her inquiry into allegations of illegal fund-raising by President Bill Clinton during last year's election campaign. Her decision, made a day before the deadline expires, places Mr Clinton in the same position as his vice-president, Al Gore, whose party fundraising methods became the object of an extended inquiry 10 days ago.

Ms Reno's decision to ask for more time to conduct the inquiry into Mr Clinton's fund-raising appeared to conflict with a letter she sent to Republican Congressmen, explaining her decision to extend the inquiry into Mr Gore. That letter indicated no evidence had been found against Mr Clinton on many of the allegations relating to the misuse of White House facilities – coffee mornings, dinners and overnight stays in the Lincoln bedroom – to raise funds for his re-election campaign.

Only a day later, the extension of the inquiry into Mr Clinton became politically almost unavoidable when the White House suddenly turned over to the Justice Department a set of videotapes

showing more than 40 White House coffee mornings.

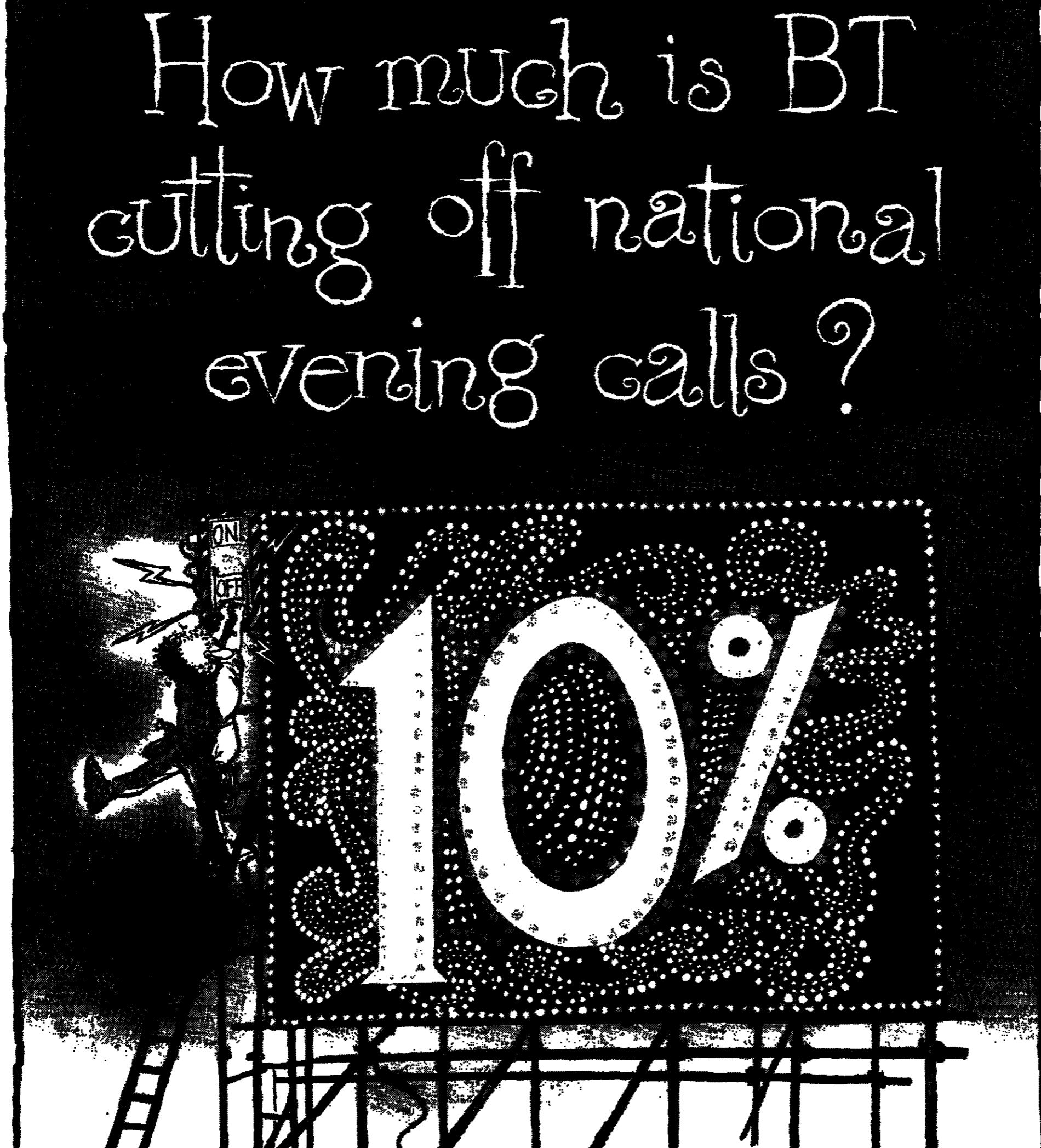
The few clips that have been made public so far show Mr Clinton associating in characteristically familiar and relaxed manner with a number of prominent Democratic Party contributors, including at least one – John Huang – who is alleged to have Mainland Chinese connections.

The belated discovery of the tapes, which the White House attributed to a "mistake", caused a furore in the Senate committee that is investigating the issue of party funding and prompted Ms Reno to say that she was "mad" at the White House.

None of the videos so far produced show Mr Clinton actually soliciting donations although. But with another hundred or so tapes expected to be handed over late yesterday, Ms Reno could not risk being made to look foolish again.

The extension of the inquiry, while serious, is of less consequence to Mr Clinton than to Mr Gore. Mr Clinton seems well apprised of the legal position and has vigorously defended the legality of his fund-raising.

Mary Dejevsky
Washington



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The night religious persecution returned to Russia

Russian police have begun to implement the country's new law restricting freedom of movement. Last week, they stormed a Ukrainian Orthodox church near Moscow. Things are turning ugly.

It was a night the parishioners will certainly not forget. They knew Russia's draconian new religion law threatened their right to worship. But few expected its impact to be so swift and crude.

Witnesses say the police came late at night, just as when Stalin was at the height of his terror, persecuting worshippers and closing down churches across the Soviet Union.

They say scores of leather-jacketed officers, armed with semi-automatic weapons and rubber batons, burst into the cathedral and its outlying buildings and drove the occupants out into the streets.

Freezing in the autumn night air,

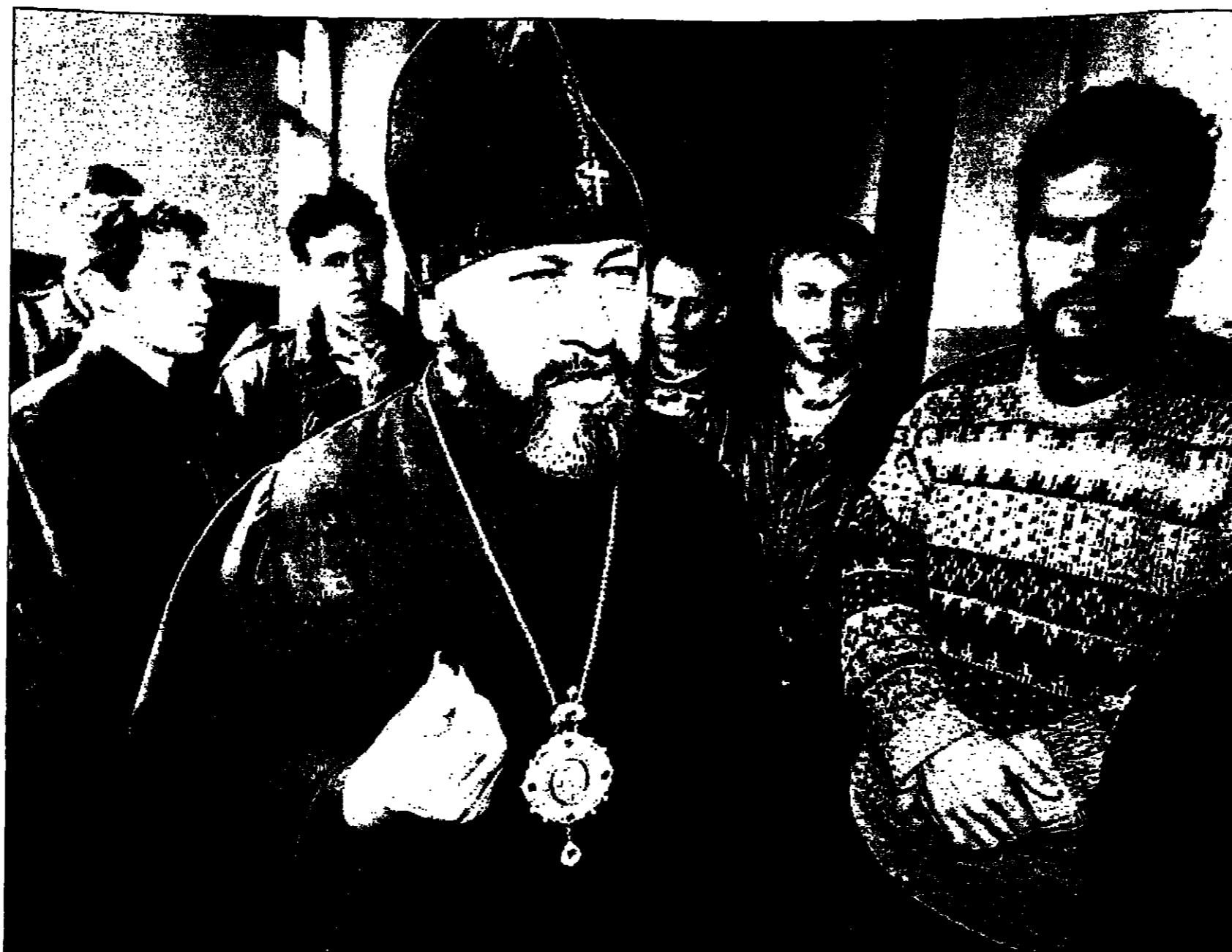
BY PHIL REEVES

evicted elderly nuns and young priests watched in dismay as their archbishop was led away in handcuffs. There is, it seems, little subtlety, let alone charity or forgiveness, in the way the Russian Orthodox church settles its scores these days.

The raid in Noginsk, 30 miles north-west of Moscow, came only one working day after Boris Yeltsin signed a law restricting freedom of worship in Russia, and establishing Russian Orthodoxy as the nation's dominant faith.

Half-hearted complaints from the West about the legislation have been met with scoffing noises from the Kremlin, which promised it would be enforced with moderation. Less than three weeks on, those assurances already sound hollow.

Although the law was passed to protect Orthodoxy from incursions by foreign rivals, Catholics and Protestants, it is also being used as a weapon in a struggle for control over land, cathedrals and schools between the Russian church and its spin-off groups. The Noginsk cathedral was run by the Ukrainian Orthodox church, which broke away from Moscow after the end of



the Soviet Union; the Russians want it back.

"What happened was a total shock," said Valeri Bondarenko, a 20-year-old student priest, as he stood outside the church's padlocked gates. Beyond the fence, police in black berets and military fatigues patrolled in the shadow of the cathedral's white dome, muttering occasionally into their walkie-talkies.

"There were lots of police with weapons," he said. "Some of us had wives with babies, but they were all thrown into the streets. Some were still in night clothes

and slippers. When people saw the priest was arrested, they tried to help, but the police began to beat them."

Another young priest told *The Independent* that he was beaten on the ground and then carted off to jail for a day.

In the eyes of the parishioners, who are mostly Russian, the raid had nothing to do with theology, but lots to do with land. For the last few years, they have been repairing their cathedral, which the Soviets turned into a factory for making felt boots. Once again, the walls are adorned

with finely carved wood panels, icons and frescos. It has a seminary, a school, two convents for the poor, and a convent. Unlike most of the surrounding industrial landscape, the cathedral complex has a cluster of new buildings. All are now under the control of the Russian Orthodox church.

Beneath the conflict lies a feud that has been simmering between the Moscow patriarchate and its counterparts in Kiev. This came to a head in 1995 when the first breakaway Ukrainian patriarch died. The Russians refused to let him be buried in

Kiev's main cathedral, so the schismatics rioted and, during the disturbances, buried him beneath the pavement outside.

The ownership of the cathedral has been the subject of court battles for five years. Moscow's clerics say it was always theirs, and that last month a court finally ruled in their favour. The police say they were sent in to enforce the court's findings and met resistance from the parishioners. The Ukrainian church says the issue was unsettled, and that the raid preempted their right to appeal.

Freedom fighters: Fr Adrian, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox church, who was led away in handcuffs when his cathedral in Noginsk was seized by police in the wake of new draconian laws reinforcing the power of Russia's Orthodox religion

Photograph: Mikhail Metzel

A wider issue lies at the heart of the matter. Nothing in Russia's new religion law legally justifies the eviction. But the Moscow patriarchate was clearly emboldened by the law; it appears to be using it as a tool to rebuild the empire it enjoyed under Soviet rule, when it worked closely with the Communist Party and the KGB.

"There certainly is a cause and effect relationship here," said Lawrence Uzzell, of the Oxford-based Keston Institute, which monitors religious freedom in the ex-Soviet Union. "In Russia laws are often taken as signals rather than as a precise instruction. This law was a signal that it is the open season when it comes to religious minorities.

"If this can happen to a church with some degree of international organisation, what will happen, say, to a small isolated Baptist organisation out in the Russian hinterland?"

So far, official Western protests against the law have ranged from muted to non-existent. (Tony Blair did not raise it during his talks with Boris Yeltsin last week). But there are fears these same heavy-handed techniques will be used against other offshoots of Russian Orthodoxy, such as the Old Believers, or the Free Orthodox church.

While the world looks the other way, the Noginsk cathedral's Ukrainian archbishop and his nuns and student priests have set up a campaign headquarters in a derelict barracks for textile workers. Last week their power and water was cut off in an apparent attempt to oust them. But it remains the nerve centre of their fight to win back their church.

However, they admit it will be tough. "This religion law was worked out by the Moscow patriarchate," said the archbishop, Fr Adrian, who, though he now works from a peeling bedroom lined with iron beds, continues to wear his purple velvet hat, black robes and golden chain. "We were just the first victims. There will be many more."

FAMINE IN NORTH KOREA URGENT APPEAL FOR AID



For the third consecutive year the harvest in North Korea has been ruined by devastating floods. Many homes have been destroyed and millions of people face starvation. Already huge numbers of children are barely surviving on a diet of tree bark, grass and roots. The floods have also severely damaged the nation's health system leaving it ill-equipped to deal with malnourished and suffering children.

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Sikhs help Queen save face on Amritsar visit

Prince Philip yesterday disputed the death toll of the Amritsar massacre as he and the Queen made a sensitive visit to the city. Peter Popham says that his crass remarks spoiled an otherwise successful visit, the highlight of which was a rapturous reception at Sikhism's Golden Temple.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the northern Indian city of Amritsar yesterday, where they laid a wreath at the memorial to the hundreds killed in Jallianwala Bagh park in 1919 by British troops under General Reginald Dyer. Afterwards they were treated to a fantasmagorical tour of the Golden Temple.

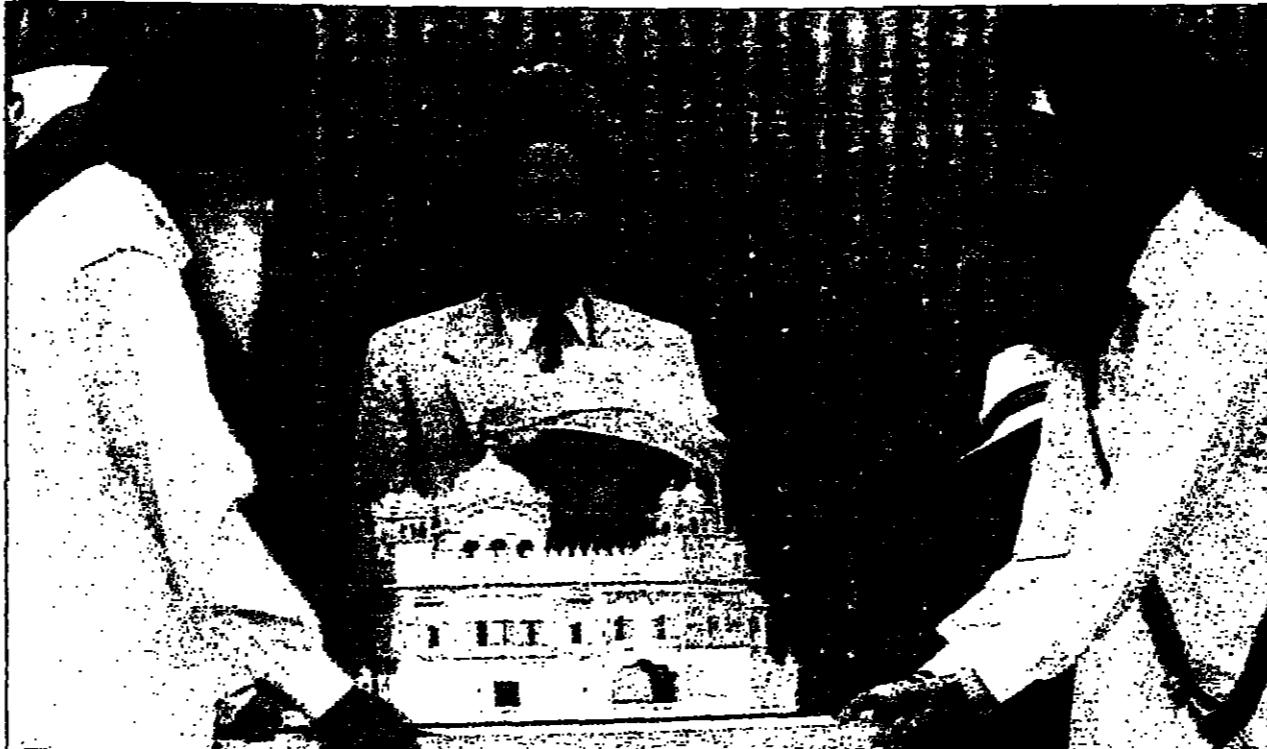
This was the trip the Indian prime minister, IK Gujral, had advised the Queen to skip, but it was the first time the tour has come alive. What is the point of

a royal tour if there is no one on the streets waving? Until yesterday that has been the Queen's lot: vacant streets, a few limp Union Flags, the occasional press-ganged gaggle of schoolchildren.

Amritsar was different. Every school child in the city, it seemed, was on the streets waving flags, there were golden streamers everywhere, even strung around the statue of the assassin of the former British lieutenant-governor.

Yet the festive mood masked a more complicated reality. Early in the morning a demonstration in the city against the Queen's visit ended in a baton charge by police, with injuries and arrests.

Except for police and press, Jallianwala Bagh park was empty when the Queen and her entourage walked briskly in. She and Prince Philip laid a wreath at the obelisk commemorating the atrocity, then walked briskly out again. It was brief, even perfunctory, but relatives of those who died pronounced the visit "a sufficient act of atonement".



Model for a monarch: The Queen being given a replica of the Golden Temple in Amritsar yesterday. Photograph: Reuters

Prince Philip had, perhaps, atoned less than some might wish. On his way out, he stopped to query an official toll of the "martyred". "Two thousand? It wasn't, was it?" he said. Prince Philip was confident of his facts: "That's wrong. I was in the navy with Dyer's son."

Down the road, a very different scene awaited them. The Golden Temple, the Vatican of

Sikhism, is a confection of white marble and gold leaf, with a lake full of carp where on ordinary days believers immerse themselves. Today the complex was crammed with the faithful in gorgeous Sikh costume, with swords and shields and daggers, sashes with long grey beards, turbans and mohawks all in white.

It was fantastically exotic: it

would take a Bertolucci to do

it justice. Through this the Queen and the Duke were propelled: through the Holy of Holies, in and out of the Akhal Takhat shrine, almost destroyed by army tanks during the siege of 1984. It was organised Indian chaos, but the royal couple were treated as gently as porcelain, and loaded with gifts.

But why so warm here and so tepid elsewhere? According to local journalist, the Queen has helped restore the esteem so brutally damaged in 1984.

Gurcharan Singh Tora, president of Sikhism's ruling body, said: "The Queen's visit will send the message around the world that peace prevails in the Golden Temple." No wonder the Indian government seems so wary about the purpose of the royal visit.

Smallest is beautiful as Nevis moves to break from St Kitts

The former British island colony of Nevis in the Caribbean does not like being part of the smallest country in the world. It wants the title all to itself. It may no longer be able to rely on coconuts for its survival, but it does have a luxuriant hotel.

Nevis's parliament – all five members – voted unanimously yesterday to secede from its federation with the neighbouring island of St Kitts. The issue will now go to a referendum, requiring two-thirds of Nevis's 5,000 registered voters to confirm the breakaway.

The cheers in the parliamentary gallery in the Nevis capital of Charlestown when the five MPs registered their votes after a marathon debate appeared to reflect the views of most of the islanders. Their 32,000 neighbours, two miles away on St Kitts, who will be excluded from the referen-

dum, have generally shown indifference to the break-up.

The two islands' English-speaking Caribbean neighbours are anything but indifferent. The 14-nation Caribbean Community, which links the former British colonies, has been trying to forge more unity, particularly on vital trade issues, and has criticised the break-up.

Residents of Nevis, which covers 36 square miles, have long complained of being treated like second-rate citizens by the folks on the larger island. The two were separate colonies until Britain forced them to merge just over a century ago. When St Kitts and Nevis was granted independence in 1983, Nevis insisted on a constitutional provision allowing it to leave the federation, with its capital in the town of Basseterre. The people of Nevis said they had to beg the Basseterre government for a new fire en-

gine and a new police station after the old one was burnt down. "We always had to bow and scrape," said Nevis's premier, Vance Amory. "They looked on us as a mere appendage."

Mr Amory said Nevis contributes almost two-fifths of the federation's total tax revenue but receives only one-fifth of public spending in return. He said the little island now hopes to survive on tourism and offshore banking.

The US would like to believe that. It recently signed a "hot pursuit" agreement with the St Kitts and Nevis government after complaining that drug traffickers had "penetrated the highest levels of society" on the two islands. The agreement allows the US Coastguard to enter the islands' territorial waters to chase suspected drug-runners.

— Phil Davison, Miami

Red-faced communist leader forced to return Prodi government to power

Just when everybody thought the Italian government was going to collapse, it didn't. Yesterday, the president sent his prime minister, Romano Prodi, back to work and peace and light broke once more in the ruling centre-left coalition. Almost.

Ten days ago, the leader of the far-left party Rifondazione Comunista, Fausto Bertinotti, denounced next year's budget

as a betrayal of the working classes and declared only divine intervention could stop his party from voting against it.

Since Mr Bertinotti's party holds the balance of power in the Chamber of Deputies, his intransigence forced Mr Prodi to tender his resignation. Italy's place among the founder members of the single European currency looked in serious doubt.

Yesterday, however, Mr Bertinotti made a formal undertaking to vote for the very same budget, barring a couple of minor cosmetic changes, and pledged to back Mr Prodi for another year at least. The lira bounced up against the mark and dollar and Italy once again looked a half-sensible country.

Mr Prodi magnanimously declared that there were "no

winners or losers, just a victory for Italy and common sense". What had in fact taken place was a total humiliation of Mr Bertinotti – carried out by their own grassroots supporters.

Mr Bertinotti's decision to spark the government crisis appears to have been motivated most by concern to push himself and his party into the limelight. What he had not banked

on were the feelings of the rank and file, many of whom are working constructively with the mainstream centre-left at local and regional level, who let him know they thought a government crisis and new elections were a very bad idea indeed.

The Rifondazione secretary convened a lengthy meeting, decided to tell Mr Prodi they were ready to work with

him again, and the whole affair came to an end – barring the egg on Mr Bertinotti's face.

Rifondazione did not come away entirely empty-handed. Mr Prodi pledged to work towards a 35-year working week, shaved a fraction off his welfare cuts and rearranged the furniture of his pensions reforms.

— Andrew Gumbel
Rome

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Islamists slip Algerian army to massacre 54

Suspected Muslim rebels, ignoring an army assault on their bases near Algiers, massacred up to 54 people near Algeria's main oil and gas centre, Algerian reports said yesterday.

Most of the victims, their throats cut and bodies mutilated, were women and men aged under 30, Algerian newspaper said. The attack was the worst single massacre in the Oran region of western Algiers which has largely been spared the violence which erupted nearly six years ago.

The massacre took place as the Algerian military was claiming success in an offensive against bases of the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) near Algiers and in the countdown to local elections next week. The ballot will restore elected officials to the country's 1,500 townships and 48 provincial authorities for the first time in seven years.

Tourist killer targeted Jews

A former insane asylum inmate went on trial yesterday for killing nine German tourists last month, who was ready to attack Jews and was ready to "kill even a hundred, or even two hundred" of them. Saber Abu el-Ulla said he carried out the attack to avenge a cartoon drawn by an Israeli Jewish woman earlier this year that depicted Islam's Prophet Mohammed as a pig.

"I wish I could have gotten to her," Abu el-Ulla said, speaking from behind a steel cage inside the courtroom. He and his brother, Mahmoud, are charged with premeditated murder in the shooting and firebombing of a tourist bus on 18 September in a brazen attack outside the Egyptian Museum.

The government has denied that the attack was linked to Islamic extremist groups.

— AP

Congo rebels claim success

Forces loyal to Congo Brazzaville's former military leader, Denis Sassou Nguesso, said they had captured the presidency and were pushing west in a lightning advance through the south of the capital. There was no immediate word on the whereabouts of President Pascal Lissouba, Sassou's rival in the bloody four-month power struggle in the former French colony.

Residents of the government-held southern suburbs fled across the Congo river to Kinshasa, capital of the former Zaire. "The presidency has now been captured," a spokesman for Sassou's commanders said, adding that Mr Lissouba had not been there at the time. Sassou forces also claim control of Brazzaville's Maya Maya international airport.

"We retook the airport three days ago," a Cobra commander said. The conflict, which began on June 5 when Lissouba tried to crack down on Sassou's private Cobra militia, has killed several thousand people in Brazzaville.

Ecological reward

Two American pest control researchers received this year's World Food Prize for work on cutting the use of insecticides on crops while maintaining or increasing yields.

Ray F. Smith, 78, and Perry L. Adkisson, 68, will share the \$250,000 cash prize. "They helped bring about a dramatic reduction in the use of chemical pesticides," said a statement on the award. It said their new approaches to agricultural pest control had sparked a global ecological revolution, reducing insecticide use on US crops alone by 50 per cent.

Poachers scale new heights

Police have arrested more than 800 people suspected of poaching red caviar during the salmon migration on the Amur river in the Russian Far East, it was reported by the ITAR-Tass news agency. Police and fishing inspectors recently confiscated dozens of miles of fishing nets, five tons of fish and two tons of red caviar, said Amurivbod fishing company spokesman Vyacheslav Belyansky.

— AP

Men should be what they seem

From the cod-medieval poems of Thomas Chatterton to the pseudo-Shakespearian verse of 'Vortigern' and beyond, Paul Taylor argues that a fake can be as valuable a reflection of its time as any 'genuine' work of art.

Its first performance had originally been scheduled for 1 April 1796 at Drury Lane. This could, indeed, have been a more appropriate date than the second of the month, to which the premiere was, surprisingly, shifted. For *Vortigern* – trumpeted as a long-lost, recently unearthed historical tragedy by Shakespeare – left more than a few people feeling like an April Fool.

The play had taken in luminaries such as Henry Pye, the Poet Laureate, and James Boswell, Dr Johnson's biographer, who sank to his knees before this and other documents from the same source (these range from a letter addressed to 'Anna Hatherewy', accompanied by a lock of Bardic hair, to a few leaves of *Hamlet*). It had pulled in a starry cast, including John Philip Kemble, the greatest actor of the day, and Mrs Jordan, the King's mistress.

But then, with timing that can't be accused of overweening tact, on 31 March a scholarly tome was published – Edmund Malone's *An Inquiry into the Authenticity of Certain Miscellaneous Papers and Legal Instruments* – which entirely discredited both the documents and their forger, one William Henry Ireland, the 19-year-old son of Samuel Ireland, Bardolater extraordinaire. As pre-show publicity, this was something of a downer. Kemble had always had his doubts and, on the first and only night, he encouraged the audience in the jeering and orange-throwing that brought the proceedings to a halt half-way through Act 5. So, when *Vortigern* opens next Thursday in Joe Harston's production at the Old Vic, off Fleet Street, it will – strictly speaking – be the world premiere.

My bother to resurrect this curiosity either in the theatre or here on this page? A crag quilt of Shakespearean motifs and echoes, it tells the story – with abject apologies (*Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Cymbeline* and *As You Like It* along the way – of a military hero who, rewarded with half the kingdom for his victories, allows lust and ambition for total sovereignty to go to his head.

As for the qualities this work may or may not possess in its own right, the director of the new production will have his say at the end of its piece. Quite separately from that, though, *Vortigern* is well worth pondering for its considerable cultural significance, both as sign of its times and as a glinting

link in the false-metal chain that leads to our own post-modern society, where artistic boxes, quite brazen about themselves, can be passed off as the genuine article. It isn't fanciful to suggest that there's a route from the world that created *Vortigern* to the world that created that wonderkind *de nos jours*, Martin McDonagh, author of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.

Vortigern was, you might say, a pseudo-event that was waiting to happen. It marks the confluence of powerful forces that were then re-shaping the culture. A crucial change had been brought about by the Copyright Act of 1710. This introduced the concept of literature as personal property, so it's no accident that this was also the century of classic forgeries – among them, the 'Marvellous Boy' Thomas Chatterton and his invented medieval poet, Rowley, and James Macpherson with his supposed discovery of the Gaelic bard, Ossian.

The rise of Bardolatry and the new romantic conception of 'genius' were fresh energies calculated to produce religious worship. When the theatres had reopened in 1612, Shakespeare's stock had been lower than that of Ben Jonson or Beaumont and Fletcher. Cut to 1769 and you have David Garrick conducting Jubilee celebrations in a Stratford full of pilgrim-tourists avid for their souvenir-equivalent of a splinter of the True Cross: a piece of the mulberry tree allegedly planted by Shakespeare's hand. A manuscript by that hand would obviously trigger transports of fetishism.

So someone was going to turn forger and William Henry Ireland had the right psychology, itself partly a product of the times. William Henry's heart belonged to Daddy, whose heart belonged to, well, Shakespeare. In his money-spinning confessions, the son pleaded that he had only faked the documents in order to please his father. William Henry was inspired by the example of Chatterton, whom he had come across in a contemporary novel, *Love and Madness*. In a long digression about the poet-faker, this novel had said of the noun 'forgery' that 'for Chatterton's sake, the English language should add another word to its Dictionary': how could 'the deception of ascribing a false antiquity of two or three centuries to compositions for which the author's name deserves to live for ever' be considered a crime?

The fact that Chatterton – the 18-year-old suicide who became for the romantic poets an icon of lonely, harried genius – was also, in one sense, a fraud was the kind of paradox not likely to be wasted on a certain Oscar Wilde. Wilde, who lectured on Chatterton and who, in the memoir *Pen, Pencil and Poison*, celebrated the forger

and poisoner, Thomas Griffiths Wainewright, provides us with the next move in the game. The forger, for Wilde, is not an aberrant would-be artist, but the very type of the artist. Debasing a currency that is already debased, the artist is the covert subversive – though it might be added that this does involve collusion with the culture under attack. Whatever else Andy Warhol's screen 'printing' of dollar bills may be, semiotically speaking, they are not anti-capitalist.

One thing you might say in defence of forgery-fostered postmodernism is that it has saved people like the novelist Peter Ackroyd and the playwright Martin McDonagh from a life of crime. In an earlier period, they would have had to fake – er, sorry, pastiche – in private. Ackroyd's novel *Chatterton* piles fate on fate, imagining the discovery of papers and a painting that suggest that the Marvellous Boy lived on, in fact, to his 50th year, the suicide itself a fake and a career-move. The fear of never being able to say (or rather write) anything in your own voice – of being trapped in a literary echo chamber – haunts this book. The tentative intimation that one of its characters may one day be able to do so, to speak with his own voice, is not best supported by the fact that Ackroyd's own career deserts him in the con-

temporary passages and that the book's *donnée* – the twist of linking the forger of a suicide with the forgery of a work of art – certainly looks as if it's lifted from an earlier literary source: Wilde's "The Portrait of M. W. H".

Which brings us to Martin McDonagh, who is making quite a career for himself – first play premiered at the Royal Court, second play premiered at the National Theatre – on the back of the works of John Millington Synge (1871-1909). The South Londoner McDonagh can produce comic pastiche ("Irish" by the Irish mile). His admirers claim that the zesty ersatzness of his style is that with his subject matter – the idea that there

April Fool: when the author of the Shakespearian tragedy 'Vortigern' was unmasked as the 19-year-old William Henry Ireland, did it make the play any less a work of art? Mary Evans Picture Library

is no such thing as the real Ireland, only various myths. They point out that St John Ervine once accused Synge of being "a faker of peasant speech"; McDonagh, our new playboy of the imaginary western world, is simply upping the irony of it all.

So that's all right, then, is it? Not for some of us, who see this young dramatist as the casualty rather than as the champion of postmodernism. Sitting through one of his plays, you hear the roar of art-on-art feedback; you hear the increasingly mechanical laughter of the audience; you rarely hear the beating of a heart. There's an eerie lack of emotional investment in these sadistic, opportunistic plays. Even if you were completely ignorant of Synge's work, you would, I suspect, sense a bollowness – as when you tap a *rompe-l'œil* bookcase.

McDonagh exists. I even know people who have interviewed him. But, for my peace of mind, I prefer to think of him as a hoax perpetrated by some committee of postmodernist pranksters – a theatrical equivalent of the "Brunn Hat" exhibition of 1929, which introduced London to a fake modernist painter: the pictures by Brian Howard, the catalogue notes by Evelyn Waugh, and the non-existent genius impersonated by Tom Mitford.

As for *Vortigern*, Joe Harston, the director of next week's world premiere, thinks this fake is full of genuine drama. In *A Question of Attribution*, Alan Bennett's teasing meditation on fakes and forgeries, the fraudulent Anthony Blunt (*former Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures* and sometime Soviet spy) declares that any forger is "of his time" and, however slavishly he imitates, he does it in the fashion of his time, in a way that is contemporary – "and with the passage of years it is this element that dates, that begins to seem old-fashioned and which eventually unmasks him".

This, as Harston agrees, is certainly the case with *Vortigern*. What the play reflects is not Shakespeare but the taste of the 18th-century adaptations of him. It doesn't end, for example, with the hero's death, though Harston feels his survival can, for a modern audience, be made a source of discomfort rather than of sentimental reassurance. He also thinks that, in the handling, say, of *Vortigern's* wife (who goes mentally AWOL and loses her grip on him and her children), you see distinctive signs of the fact that William Henry Ireland, unlike Shakespeare with his boy actors, was writing the part for a woman. We can judge for ourselves next week – if, that is, the audience, this time round, lets the cast get to the end.

Vortigern opens 23 Oct, Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4 (0171-936 3456)

Tales of ordinary madness

When Mark Rylance first took Shakespeare into Broadmoor, it revealed the Bard's understanding of the mind to be worthy of Freud himself. No wonder, says Glenda Cooper, the actors all decided it was time to see a psychiatrist (or two).

Sigmund, eat your heart out. Feud, the father of modern thinking about the mind was beaten to it by a Warwickshire playwright some 300 years earlier. It seems, after all, the play's the thing.

Last Sunday Mark Rylance, artistic director of London's Globe Theatre, presented extracts from Shakespeare to an audience of mental health experts to show that the Bard was a "therapeutic prompter" whose work pre-dates many of the discoveries that we now take for granted about the mind.

Looking for a case study of morbid jealousy evinced in a desire for visual confirmation of the other's guilt? Thy Othello: "Villain, be sure thou prove my love a whore / Be sure of it, give me the ocular proof".

Or for the fascination often found in mental illness with elaborate word-play and metaphor? Then turn to Hamlet's conversations with Polonius following the nummy scene. "Though this be madness, yet there's method in it," Polonius comments.

For a good example of transference in therapy, where meaning can be played with and understood, again turn to Hamlet and the Mousetrap, the play-within-a-play wherein Claudius is stirred by the resemblance between the fictional action of the players and his own dark deeds.



Denial – it ain't just a river in Egypt, you know Belinda Davison and Mark Rylance



Photo: Nicl Kurtz

when we got to the discussion groups, that was not what we talked about – it was Ophelia. Their main concern had been Hamlet and Ophelia's relationship, and Ophelia's relationship with her father."

One of the most meaningful moments for Rylance was when they invited patients to take part in the graveyard scene of *Hamlet* and he said the line: "I loved Ophelia. Forty thousand brothers with their quantity of love could not make up my sum." Rylance had always felt slightly embarrassed about the line, as Hamlet has been at least in part responsible for Ophelia's death. At this point a patient said: "I believe you." "It shook me," says Rylance. "I realised how much I had needed to hear someone say that."

Taking plays that involve murders, doomed love, treachery and highly dysfunctional families to a place where violent patients have been locked up for their actions might seem dangerous. "There was immediate shock as to what the implications might be for certain people," says Rylance. "But, looking back, they had such inquiring minds. It was a very fertile place."

He compares Shakespeare to homeopathy, which treats like with like. While a homeopath may treat a patient with arsenic to stimulate the healing process, Shakespeare does the same by forcing the person to confront himself.

At the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London on Sunday the actors performed two scenes from *Hamlet* – the nummy scene and the soliloquy "O what a rogue and peasant slave am I", as well as the sleepwalking scene from *Macbeth*. Admitting to being nervous ("It's a daunting audience for a professional schizophrenic"), Rylance played a Hamlet in regulation pyjamas

says are powerful and unexpected results.

"They found a lot of humour in *Macbeth* and they thought the Fool was the most rational person in *King Lear*," says Rylance, who took workshops with the patients afterwards.

Perhaps the most surprising reaction was to *Hamlet*. "We thought Hamlet killing Polonius was going to be the most difficult thing. No weapon had been taken into the hospital before in this way," says Claire van Kampen, the director. "But

and holed socks, who looked – and sounded – as if he could have just stepped out of one of the old Victorian asylums. This was balanced perfectly by William Russell's besuited Polonius, whose patronising manner was captured by talking at Hamlet rather than to him, smiling encouragingly, then fixedly when Hamlet's word-play became too much. Watching this scene and the ones that followed, one was

struck again at just how fascinated Shakespeare was with the concept of madness and reality – shown again later in the play when Hamlet muses that the crimes he has committed took place while he was mad and not himself. "Then Hamlet does it not; Hamlet denies it / Who does it then? His madness."

But perhaps the scene that the psychiatrists enjoyed most was Lady Macbeth's sleep-

walking scene, not just because of Belinda Davison's accurate portrayal of guilt manifested, but also because of its inclusion of those few lines for "a doctor of physic" – a forerunner, explained Rylance, of today's therapists. The biggest – if most rueful – laugh of the evening was reserved for the doctor's line: "This disease is beyond my practice."

Some things never change.

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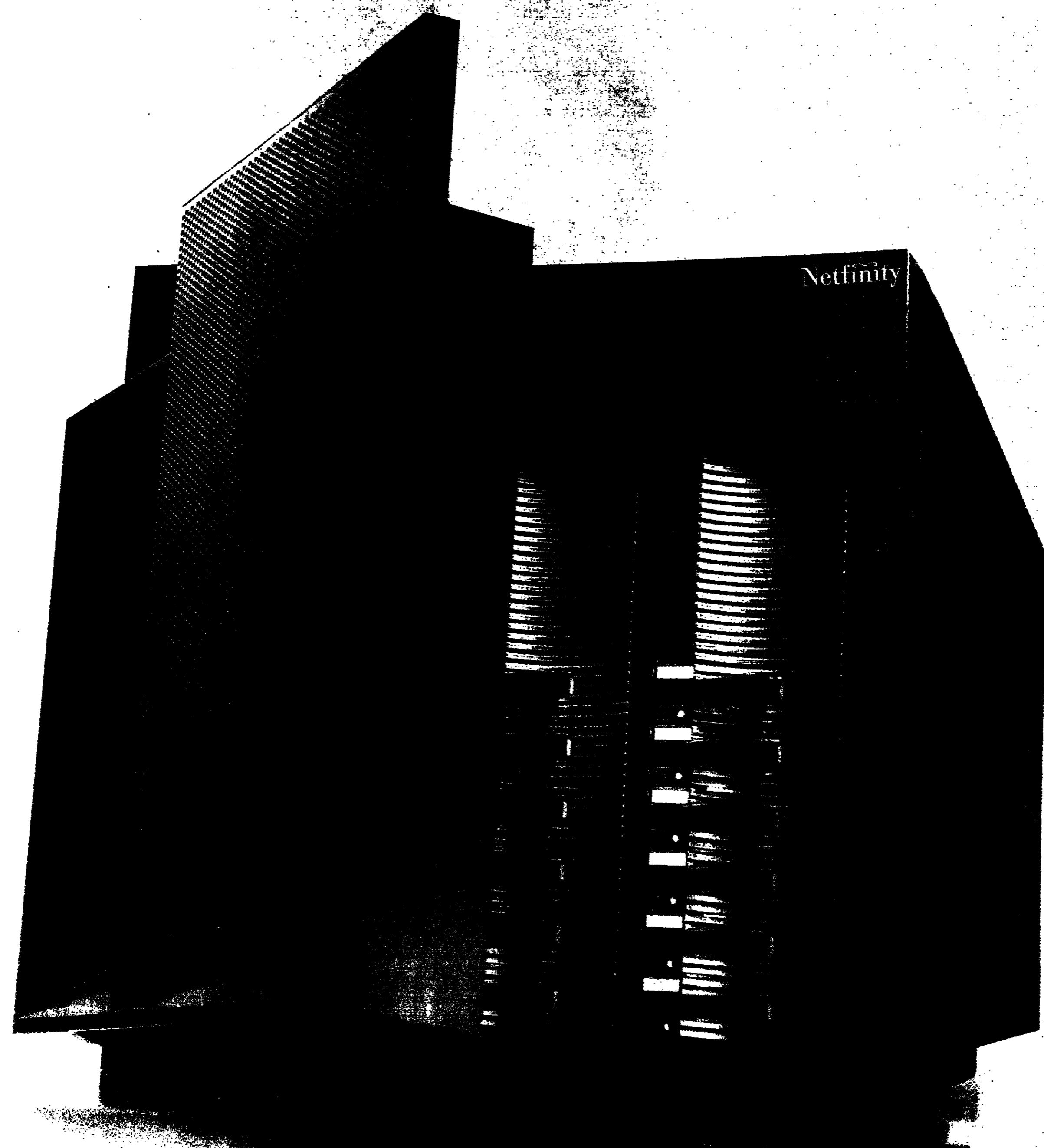
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The right to choose an abortion – in your lunch break



All in a day's work: since Marie Stopes opened its 'lunch-time abortion' service in June, some 2,000 women have chosen this option

Photograph: Nicola Kurz

Thirty years since it was legalised in Britain, the debate still rages about abortion, and to have one or not can still be one of the most difficult decisions a woman can face. But if she decides to go ahead, there is another important choice. Which type of abortion – under general or local anaesthetic, or by taking the "morning after" pill? By Nicole Yeast

When Marie Stopes launched a "lunch-time abortion" service in June this year, it was hailed by some as a medical – and even shocking – breakthrough. It is certainly popular: since June, 2,000 women have paid for this quickie procedure in one of seven specialist day-care

centres around the country.

But Carolyn Roberts, operations manager at the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, says that although last year more than 160,000 women had abortions in this country, few realised they could choose how to end their pregnancy. Local anaesthetic abortions have in fact been available since the 1970s.

"GPs who refer patients to NHS trusts often have their hands tied because the local gynaecologist only offers one treatment," she explained. "But women who go to non-profit making specialist services, like BPAS, are told about the different treatments available."

"We think it is important women receive this information so they can make an informed choice, but it is a fair assumption that those who go to the NHS for termination do not always get the opportunity to make that decision."

David Nolan, from the Birth Control Trust, agrees, saying most

health authorities have contracts with NHS providers who offer only one method.

"In the end, women who want an abortion should be able to decide how it is done," he argues. "There are basically two different methods but vacuum aspiration is probably the most commonly used because it is over so quickly, within about five minutes. The choice here is between general and local anaesthetic."

Some people don't like general because you are unconscious and it can make you feel woozy, causing a loss of control for a time. Under local, a woman can leave the centre

within an hour or so, but the downside is that she remains conscious throughout the operation, and there can sometimes be a crampy pain which is quite uncomfortable."

About 10 per cent of women choose medical abortion, or RU486 as it is known, even though it has been available since 1991.

"There is a lot of ignorance about

medical abortions among doctors because it has been marketed very half-heartedly," says Nolan. "The problem is the time factor. A woman needs to go to hospital three times, once for around six hours. But its great advantage is that there is no surgery at all and studies show that given the choice at least half of all women wanting an abortion would choose this method."

In their busy family planning clinic in Derby, Jackie Abrahams and Jeanette Leadbury witness this lack of choice at grass roots level.

"When we see a woman the question of which treatment method she wants is never raised," says Leadbury. "Basically, patients in South Derbyshire have the vacuum aspiration method under general anaesthesia or nothing at all. We do have a few leaflets on the RU486 method but the health authority hasn't taken the drug on so it's not available anyway."

Both doctors believe treatment should be tailored to suit individual needs.

"I do think women should have choice. There are those who want to avoid the risks associated with general anaesthetic and those who want to be unconscious in the operating theatre," says Abrahams. "Unfortunately, this choice is not available in Derby at the moment, but it is something I would like to explore further. In the end, it is up to the gynaecologists and managers at the trust."

David Paintin, a retired gynaecologist and BPAS board member, says

South Derbyshire is not the only place where women who want abortions have no choice about their treatment.

"In the early Seventies, almost all of my NHS abortion work was carried out under local anaesthesia. Unfortunately, a minority of women, usually teenagers, had bad experiences so we started offering a choice. The problem is that local anaesthesia takes longer and is more demanding on staff who have to give the

woman emotional support. We could do around four procedures an hour compared to six under general."

"Providing a choice of both procedures can be expensive because you are paying an anaesthetist to be on hand, using him for only part of the time. In the end we moved to general anaesthesia as our standard procedure."

Most abortion providers are waiting to see how Marie Stopes' local anaesthesia day-care centres fare in the private market place.

"It is difficult to offer women choice within an NHS caseload," says Paintin, "but at some stage in the future we might see the NHS open specialist day-care facilities alongside traditional in-patient abortion methods. In an ideal world there should be choice, but many NHS gynaecologists are not trained in all procedures. And, if the truth is known, there are some consultants who are not happy doing the procedure at all."

The waiting area at the day-care centre reminded me of a beauty salon. There were green leather chairs, a green sofa with pink cushions and lots of plants. All very relaxing and not like being in a hospital at all. After having my blood pressure taken I was given two painkillers and a small dose of valium to calm my nerves. Then everything happened really quickly. I got changed into a night shirt and was taken into a small treatment room just off the waiting area. Even though I had a local anaesthetic I still felt things, it was a bit like having a smear test, but I couldn't actually see anything. The whole thing was over in about five minutes.

The nurse helped me to the waiting area and I lay on the couch for about 20 minutes because I had some crampy pain, like a heavy period. After a while I was able to sit up and have a cup of tea. The nurse said women who've had children often find the process less painful than those who haven't.

I left around an hour and a half after I first arrived. It wasn't easy, but I wasn't traumatised by my experience either. Convenience was really important to me because it meant I was able to get on with my life as quickly as possible."

'The after-effects were bad, but I'm not sure I would have coped being awake'

Two years ago Rachel Plantie had an abortion under general anaesthetic at her local hospital. She was 10 weeks pregnant. Now 26, she works as a solicitor in Middlesbrough.

"The worst thing about being pregnant and not wanting to be is the guilt. I didn't feel bad about having an abortion but I did feel guilty about getting

caught out in the first place. My GP kept asking me whether I was sure I didn't want to keep the baby. You could see he didn't really approve. He never once mentioned that I had a choice of different treatments. I just assumed that you had to stay in hospital and because I couldn't afford to go private I just accepted what I was given."

In the ward I stayed in, there were a few women who had gone in for hysterectomies and a few about to give birth. I kept thinking they were all looking at me because I was having an abortion. After a nurse checked my blood pressure they gave me a pill which relaxed my cervix and allowed easy access to the uterus.

When I woke up afterwards I felt quite sick and dizzy. I went to the toilet and almost fainted. A friend picked me up the next day and drove me home but because I felt so nauseous I took another day off work to recover. Although the after effects were quite bad, I'm not sure how I would have coped being awake during the treatment.

It's two years since I had the abortion and I barely think about it now, let alone remember the actual day. Looking back, I would have liked to have been able to choose my own treatment method because it was my decision to have the operation in the first place. I should have been able to have at least some input in how it was done."



BELOVED AND BONK
Diary of a divorce

I am in remission, temporarily I realise, but I am enjoying it. No dreams about Beloved hacking me to pieces with a machete. No palpitations when I see his name on a fax cover sheet. If this carries on I might be able to hear his voice on the phone without having hysterics.

This is all because I have taken to bed a beautiful man who told me I had the body of an 18 year old. Which just shows how pissed he was and how gullible I am.

It all happened at a wedding. Well not actually at the wedding: I didn't drag him behind the pews whilst they were signing the register, or tempt him into the vestry whilst we waited for the bride to arrive. (Although with hindsight those do seem rather attractive options.) I saw his eyes at the other end of the pew and wondered where my knees had suddenly gone to. For the first time in two months Beloved went clean out of my head and I started counting the min-

utes until the reception. Then the ceremony caught me off guard. Instead of concentrating on keeping a stiff upper lip I'd started fantasising about those eyes and all the other bits that went with them. I suddenly came to during the vows at Heathrow... if you trip on your frock the timing goes to hell and you could end up with someone else's groom. (Of course in my case that might not have been an entirely bad thing.) All you get time to say is "I give you this ring as a token of my love and faithfulness". Hearing my friends do the full

rites with the worldly goods and body worship I found myself feeling that I'd been rather short changed. Damn it, it had all gone down the tubes and I never even got to march up an aisle in a big frock and say "I take thee Beloved to be my old fart".

So I began to cry. Very demurely at first then with rather more enthusiasm. The tears weren't the problem. (I'd left the mascara off my bottom lashes as a special precautionary measure.) No it was the snot. This was real crying, the sort you usually do at funerals not weddings. Honking snorts of nose-blowing are almost a mark of respect in the quiet bits of a funeral service but not during a wedding. So I just had to kind of mop it up as it appeared and wait for some loud bits in the hymns.

They got down the aisle and out just in time as my last tissue gave up the unequal struggle, and I tottered out into the sun along with everyone else. I

thought my demonstration of mucus production for Europe had completely ruined my chances with Mr Blue Eyes, and arrived at the reception feeling my only course of action was to drown my sorrows in a sea of Pimms.

And that was at some point during this process that Mr Blue Eyes swam out of the alcoholic haze and I discovered that the person behind the eyes was a paragon of virtue and talent with a range of obsessions absolutely compatible my own. This guy makes furniture and elderflower champagne. Beloved can't even mix a G and T without a recipe.

So one thing led to another. What can I tell you that won't sound like adolescent drivel or pornography? All I can say is that Beloved did me a favour by rendering me too shocked to eat for a month... being size 10 has completely removed all the little inhibitions that still clung to the

larger me. By 3am I was scrabbling around the floor of a tent (no, not the Marquee where the reception was held... what do you think I am?) trying to remember at what point my posh silk frock (the very same that had failed to work it's magic on Beloved) had been rolled into a ball and shoved under the ground sheet.

So now I'm in another unfamiliar state. That condition when you could run an Olympic time from the bottom of the garden when the phone rings and you catch the letters as the postman puts them through the door. It's borrowed time and in a fortnight when it's all over I'll be getting a double whammy... the return of the machete dreams and the loss of Blue Eyes. Is it worth it? Yep: Cos I've remembered exactly how the silk dress ended up how it did. And I could never forget.

Stevie Morgan

هذا من الأصل

Dior remembered his mother. But what's Galliano's excuse?

Yesterday in Paris John Galliano showed his summer ready-to-wear for Dior. And very beautiful it was. But, asks Tamsin Blomford, why this obsession with the past? Junya Watanabe, by contrast, has seen only the future. And it works.

For the designer who is supposedly at fashion's cutting edge, John Galliano certainly does love to live in the past. Yesterday, on a wintry Nineties Paris day, his clothes were all from summers long, long ago. Ranging from beautiful to ravishing, his collection for Dior was, like his show in the summer, redolent of the Belle Epoque. But this time no corsets.

Fashion to John Galliano is all about dressing for funching out, for spending an afternoon in town, for languishing in a villa at dusk, or having a brief flirtation in the rose garden before dining out under the stars. If only life were like that.

Christian Dior himself harked back to the days when his own mother lived her life in ballgowns and beads (a man should love his mother) but quite what Galliano's excuse is, half a century later, one cannot say. Appreciate that we are *fin de siècle*. But which *séicle*, pray?

Whatever, Galliano's lavish historical imagery is paying off. Women in Paris are wearing the candy-coloured tweed jackets he presented for this autumn's Dior customer and they are carrying the handbags, too.

But back in fantasy land: here comes Kate Moss in her lilac fringed dress that shimmers as she moves, Linda Evangelista in cream pinstripe wide-legged pants with a shirt jacket into a high waist; then there was the leggy Shirley Mallman with lacy stockings pulled over stiletto heels; tulle dresses lighter than cobwebs, layered over lace; one dress was perfectly plain and pared down in bias-cut cream satin while another made of silver mesh positively blinded the viewer as the light caught it. Best of all were camisole dresses made of silver knotted lace and chantilly; the silhouette was lean, cut close to the body and flaring out at the hem in a fishtail.

As you might expect in the Galliano world, I found myself sitting next to a real-life countess. But even countesses can't quite cope with the Galliano timewarp. The Comtesse of Chandon Moët, who you might think was at ease with the champagne lifestyle, simply shrugged after the show and said, "it's very difficult to wear".

The first clothes I saw in Paris this week were reduced to the bare minimum of tulle, chiffon and embroidery. Colette Dinnigan who presented her show before Dior can probably guarantee weather warm enough for her gossamer fine layers - she's Australian. Meanwhile, at Dries Van Noten, ethnic layers that travelled for inspiration from Morocco to Tibet, Nigeria to China, are designed to be worn layered so perhaps it doesn't matter if the sun doesn't shine. The collection featured every kind of decoration imaginable from sequined embroideries to block prints, photo-prints and shiny appliqués.

Last night, in a rare show of solidarity, Comme des Garçons and Martin Margiela joined forces to present two shows in one. Both are on the same avant-garde wavelength. The Comme des Garçons protégé, Junya Watanabe, showed his collection earlier in the day. It was almost exclusively white, with garments miraculously twisted, draped and pleated out of single pieces of fabric. Although the models' faces were wrapped in cobwebs, the clothes looked to the future. And isn't fashion about keeping one step ahead?



Esther de Jong wearing a silver daisy brocade bias-cut dress worn with a tailored jacket at the Christian Dior show in Paris yesterday



Left to right: Gauze dress with appliquéd flowers at Christian Dior; kimono dress with ethnic trim by Dries Van Noten; white pleated dress by Junya Watanabe

Photographs: Ben Elmes



Stella McCartney, right, with design assistant and sister-in-arms Phoebe Philo

Why Chloë's tomorrow will be stellar as yesterday

Nobody got big in Paris as fast as Stella McCartney, daughter of Paul. Tamsin Blomford tells you the reason. Guess what it is.

What do you do with a fashion house that was a happening label in the Seventies but had recently become a fashion joke? How do you wangle it back into favour with stylish, affluent young women, not to mention Madonna, Kate, Naomi, Helena and Patsy Kensit? Simple.

You employ Stella McCartney, 25-year-old daughter of Sir Paul and veggie queen Linda, and great girlie friend of all the above, as chief designer. This morning she will step on to the Paris catwalk at the end of her first show for Chloë.

She is a dream come true. Not only is she who she is, she decided at 15 that she wanted to be a fashion designer, worked at Christian Lacroix as a studio slave before taking a degree at Central Saint Martin's because it was simply the best place for fashion. She even fitted in a bit of serious graft for Knightsbridge tailor Edward Sexton to learn the craft of tailoring.

It took her less than two years between graduation from Central Saint Martin's - with a final show featuring her friends Kate and Naomi - and taking over at Chloë. Could her name have anything to do with it? Her new status in life, as a designer on the same level as Alexander McQueen at Givenchy and John Galliano at Dior, has everything to do

with the power to generate headlines. Money cannot buy what Stella has got. When her parents cheer her on, as they are expected to this morning when Stella unveils not just her first collection for Chloë but her first catwalk collection since she graduated from Central Saint Martin's in 1995, it will not be a career move worthy of cynicism. It will simply be a mother and father beaming proudly at a daughter peaking early in her chosen field.

When she stepped through the doors at Chloë's headquarters on Rue Faubourg St Honoré back in April and met all 80 of its employees, she was already famous as the daughter of a Beatle. So long before her first collection, the fashion world's perceptions of the house had shed about 30 years and gained an equal amount of credibility. Chloë is a girl about town again; she goes to every party worth being seen at. There she is, sitting on Antonio Berardi's knee at Yasmin le Bon's birthday party at Les Bains. And oh, darling! How sweet of Madonna to throw a party in London to celebrate her new job. And did you see her hanging out backstage at Glastonbury with Robbie Williams? The last time I saw her was at the wedding of Kirsty Hume and Donovan Leitch, with Sophia Coppola, Helena Christensen and the rest of the "in" crowd. Already, the house has taken on Stella's own personality, and a little of her sister-in-arms Phoebe Philo. And that's before we've even seen a stitch. Clever Chloë!

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CARLTON
Home Entertainment

Win tickets for the Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards

The Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards, despite being the highlight of the fashion calendar, used to be a fairly low-key affair. Until two years ago the ceremony was conducted in one of the catwalk tents outside the Natural History Museum where guests, dressed in their finest designer clothes, would sit in plastic chairs to witness the prizegiving. The awards moved to the Royal Albert Hall in 1996 where velvet seats better suited the occasion and 1,500 members of the public had access to a rock 'n' roll happening for the first time.

Last year's ceremony proved a turning-point. The trusty "...and the winner is... X" followed by a bit of back-slapping and champagne-drinking was replaced with a little known all-girl group called The Spice Girls performing while models paraded clothes for the best High Street Retailer award, Mick Hucknall posing in a zoot suit, and Frank Skinner and David Baddiel looking uncomfortable in theirs. In fact, the only thing missing was Jarvis Cocker jumping on stage to do a moonie.

to be full of surprises, and as always will provide the movers and shakers of British fashion with the perfect opportunity to practise what they preach - and look absolutely fabulous.

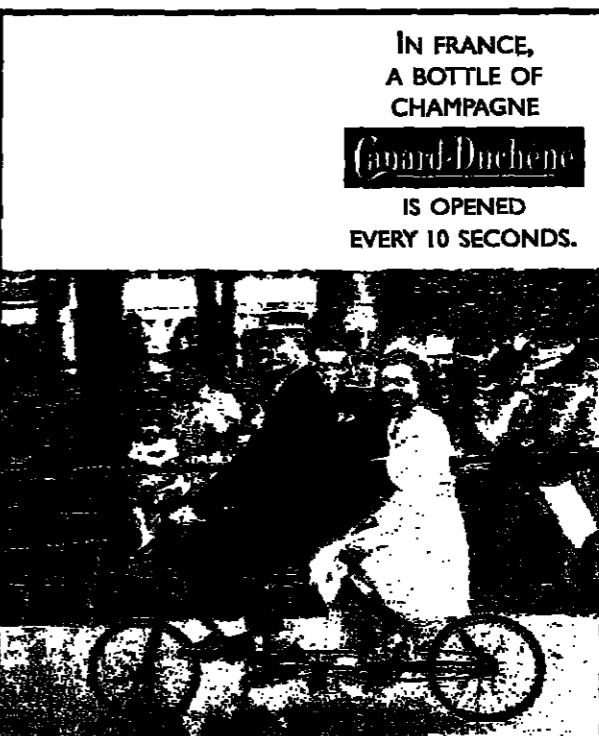
WIN WIN WIN

We've got five pairs of tickets to give away for the British Fashion Awards on 22 October. To win, simply answer the following question: Who won the British Designer of the Year Award last year? Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address, and daytime number.

to: *Independent/Channel 5 Competition*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL. Entries must arrive no later than Monday 20 October. Winners will be notified by phone, and must make their own way to and from the Royal Albert Hall.

To buy tickets at £10, £20 or £35 for the event call the Royal Albert Hall Box Office on 0171-589 8212 or 0870 122 2222.

Melanie Rickey



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CANARD-DUCHÈNE, CHAMPAGNE SANS FORMALITÉ

Those who can, and how to get them into teaching



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Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Minister and shares

Sir: Let me share with your readers information I've given John Redwood (letter, 14 October).

My father was killed in a mountaineering accident in 1994. His body was not found for two years. His estate was not released to the executors until this year. It was split between me and my mentally handicapped sister, who has three trustees. Since I am one of her trustees I declared the shareholdings in full on becoming a minister, even though the shares had yet not been released to the trustees.

The shares have never been in my name, and the share certificates are held by another trustee - a non-family member who is the director of an organisation dedicated to helping people with learning disabilities. The value of the shareholding is small - the P&O shares Mr Redwood mentions are worth around £500.

As to ministers ruling themselves out of inquiries, there is no shortage of examples: John Redwood and British Airways for one.

I would not wish the tragedy which has befallen my family on my worst enemy - not even on John Redwood.

NIGEL GRIFFITHS MP
House of Commons
The writer is Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs

Outrage in Rome

Sir: With five of my fellow directors and our sons, I travelled to Rome to see the Italy v England match at the weekend. We do not wear football regalia, do not get drunk or cause trouble.

On arrival at Ciampino airport on Saturday afternoon we were greeted by a heavy and hostile armed police presence which was also in evidence at our hotel. On approaching the stadium we were searched, with things like plastic bottles of water confiscated - presumably they thought they could become dangerous missiles.

At the entry to our section of the ground there was a further search. When only two fans were being searched and allowed in at a time, with hundreds arriving, serious crushing was inevitable. The Italian police reaction to any impatience

"Those who can, do; those who can't, teach." Quite possibly, there has never been a more destructive, philistine sentence of folk-wisdom than that. Yesterday, the Teacher Training Agency enlisted a wide spectrum of well-known people, from the Prime Minister to John Cleese, Stephen Hawking the scientist to David Seaman the goalkeeper, Skin from the band Skunk Anansie to the film-maker David Puttnam, in order to recruit new people into teaching. The line of the new cinema advertisement, that "no one gets a good teacher", was pitched just right, and comes not a moment too soon.

For years under the Conservatives, education minister after education minister denigrated teachers, labelling many good people as trendy, idle, failures. The intention may have been well-meaning, to focus attention on those teachers who were over-idealistic, or simply unable to control classes, and thus to spur teachers to raise their game. But the effect was near-

ly the opposite. The politically-inspired anti-teacher caricature spread deep into the culture, into television programmes, newspapers, cartoons and novels. It helped demoralise much of the profession. And it certainly put off many students who would have made good, dedicated teachers, and who turned instead to other, less controversial and better-paid professions. By the time Labour came to power, the caricature was beginning to turn into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Give a dog a bad name ...

The new government has not yet got the tone entirely right. This advertisement, aimed at raising the esteem in which teaching is held, was preceded by early Labour announcements on "naming and shaming" bad schools and fast-track sacking procedures for bad teachers. Both are necessary, but it is now essential for the Government, as a matter of national policy, to balance such announcements with powerful pro-teaching messages. It can-

not both play to the *Daily Mail* gallery and at the same time persuade thousands of shrewd, well-qualified people to enter what we call a profession and, too often, treat as a trade.

Tony Blair, and his co-stars, are quite right: we do remember good teachers. Many of us were given our most important life-chances by a single inspirational and energetic adult at the front of a classroom. These inspiring teachers tend to have a rare mix of characteristics - a certain dramatic flamboyance, a profound love of learning, a robust and often witty demeanour, and a dogged persistence, even with slow or unappealing youngsters. More than in most professions, a relatively small number of people can have a dramatic impact on tens of thousands of lives. A school which is unlucky enough to have no exceptional, inspirational, teachers will be a bad, unhappy and failing school.

People may respond that the great teachers will be drawn inexorably into the

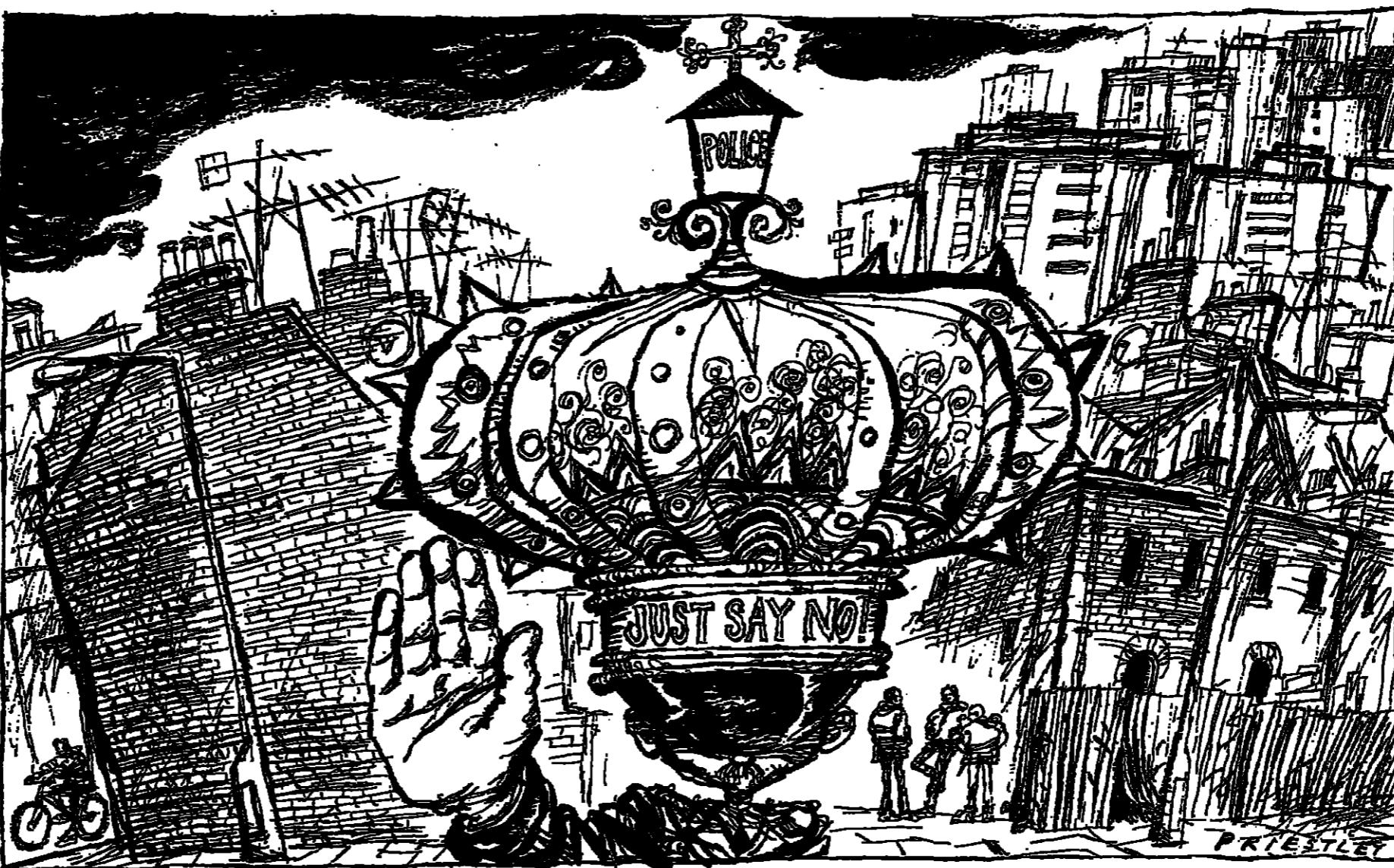
profession no matter what, just as great musicians are drawn to music. But it is not as simple as that. The combination of a growing cultural prejudice against teachers and low salaries provides a powerful disincentive. None of us really knows how many great teachers became lawyers or sales executives and never met the children they could have transformed. None of us knows how much damage was done.

Repairing it will cost the country more than words: there is no getting away from the salary issue. While the differential between graduates entering the teaching profession (salary around £14,200) and those entering the rest (average graduate starting salary £15-£16,000) is not large, the gap starts to open up alarmingly within a few years, as teachers reach around £22,000. The creation of advanced skills teachers, who can earn more, is a good first step in persuading people to stay in the classroom. But teachers need a more ambitious grade-by-grade career structure.

That will cost the country money. Everyone knows that the money won't come quickly. Smaller sums could profitably be spent on repairing and upgrading some of the grubby classrooms and staff rooms in which teachers spend their working lives.

We return, however, to where we began, the status of teaching. Politics is partly about visions of how it used to be, or will be one day. So we need to picture an Ideal Teacher - the teacher as a pillar of communities, a beacon of literacy and knowledge, a wise guide, a moral activist. This may seem slushy. It is certainly idealistic. But until we extricate that terrible caricature of the teacher as a slothful anarchist in denim, and replace it with a positive image instead, then we will not get the teachers we want and need. The Ideal Teacher would clearly be respected, properly paid and admired. And that, after all, is precisely what the vast majority of our teachers need from us, and the Government, right now.

LETTERS



or pushing was to strike out with riot sticks at anyone who happened to get in the way.

Events inside the stadium have been well chronicled in the media but again the police did not seem interested in identifying and arresting the few instigators, merely in quelling the English in general by indiscriminate brutal beatings.

They let us out some two hours after the end of the game, with not an Italian fan in sight.

The danger came from riot police who baton-charged fans several times as they were leaving in an orderly and happy way.

The whole episode has surely been a great deterrent to most law-abiding, football-loving fans who may have hoped to go to France for the World Cup finals next year. Until continental law-enforcement authorities can attain the professional standards displayed by our own police at football stadia in England no one in his

right mind would want to repeat the experience of Rome.

IAN McDONALD
Director
Close Asset Finance Ltd
Surbiton, Surrey

Sir: I live in Rome and attended the England v Italy football match last Saturday. What Rome had to endure over the past weekend, and the subsequent reaction in Britain, is a national disgrace.

The British press seem to have a severe case of amnesia. I remember the TV pictures of Heydel in 1984 (31 Italians dead), and more recently the violence in Dublin, and so easily understood the Italians' apprehension before the match.

I stood in the stadium among Italian fans immediately after the kick-off 30-40 England supporters charged up the entrance stairs and started punching and kicking anyone they could get their hands on. In an

area that contained mainly families this caused panic. As no one was willing to trade punches with "our boys" they left, obviously to rejoin their friends in the main battle and before any carabinieri arrived.

The fighting lasted the whole of the first half (it was not sporadic incidents) with even medical staff coming to the aid of the injured being attacked. If it was not for the actions of the carabinieri another tragedy might have happened in Rome.

I am critical of some of the policing, which can only be described as harassment, and especially the ticketing policy. I doubt lessons will be learnt until the people who know the problem - police and intelligence sources - are more involved in the important decisions. TV wanted the late-night kick-off in Rome, by which time England fans had drunk themselves into a stupor.

Until then the innocent Eng-

land fan will continue to be subjected to the rightful indignation of the authorities in countries our football team visits.

DAVID HUGHES

Rome

part of London and the Home Counties we have ever faced. To suggest that London as a commercial centre would be seriously damaged if TS does not go ahead is scaremongering.

DAVID WILLIAMS

Leader of the Council
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Sir: Polly Toynbee was only able to draw on some of my research on the future of air travel and on its conclusions that only a system of rationing *per capita* is likely to achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions required to prevent ecological disasters in the next century. The populations of the developing world cannot be expected to make the same reduction that we do in the affluent West.

Air travel is cheap because no account is taken either by government or the airlines of the ecological damage that it is causing. On current forecasts, UK emissions from air travel will exceed those from all other forms of travel by 2025.

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based activities to pass over the planet to them in at least as wholesome a state as we had it passed on to us?

DR MAYER HILLMAN
Senior Fellow Emeritus
Policy Studies Institute
London NW1

Sir: Terminal 5, if built, will be an enormous supermarket. Flying will be a secondary function. Today BAA makes more profit from the sale of goods than from landing fees, which it is constantly reducing in an effort to attract more and more traffic to overcrowded Heathrow.

TOM JAGO

London SW6

Amritsar apology

Sir: If there is an Indian demand that Britain (and the Queen during her current visit) apologise for the Amritsar massacre, it might be noted that in 1920, after inquiry, the Government of India condemned General Dyer, whose troops fired on the crowd; warning should have been given, the continuation of firing was indefensible, the wounded should have been tended. The loss of life was regretted and compensation promised.

The Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu, declared that Dyer had "offended against every canon of civilised conduct"; the lack of a warning was "inexcusable"; failure to tend the wounded was "an omission from his obvious duty"; he was "not entitled to select for condign punishment an unarmed crowd which ... had committed no act of violence".

Montagu's words must be regarded as an apology already and rightly made.

PETER ROBB
London NJ

The writer is Professor of the History of India at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Boring Spice

Sir: Parents who queue to buy Spice Girls dolls this Christmas may receive a less than delighted response from their offspring. I asked a class of 11-year-olds to invent new versions of worn-out similes. The suggested replacement for "as dull as ditchwater" was "as dull as the Spice Girls". JOHN COLDWELL

Ramsgate, Kent

A second-class nation thinks of itself as becoming industrialised, meaning that it is cutting down and burning all its forests, and flogging off all its minerals.

A third-class nation thinks of itself as unpolished, meaning that it has not even got the infrastructure to help spoil itself.

A first-class nation distrusts other people's currency.

A second-class nation accepts all currencies.

A third-class nation welcomes all currencies except its own.

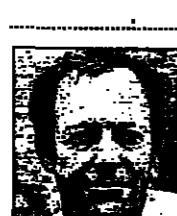
A first-class nation wants to be feared.

A second-class nation wants to be loved.

A third-class nation wants people to have heard of it.

Are we getting anywhere? Probably not. But it's all good fun, so we might try some more tomorrow.

Working out if you live in a third-rate nation - a citizen's guide



MILES
KINGTON

Yesterday I broached the subject of being a third-rate nation (as this, apparently, is what the President of India thinks we are) and wondered if it mattered whether we are third-rate or not.

What I didn't do is define what we mean by a "third-rate" nation, or indeed any other kind.

So today I am bringing you a list of characteristics by which you can judge into what class a nation falls.

A first-class nation is one where, if you break the speed limit, you get fined.

In a second-class nation, when you break the speed limit, you have to pay the policeman a bribe in order to avoid paying a fine.

In a third-class nation you pay the policeman a bribe after being stopped for speeding, even though you were well within the speed limit.

A first-class nation has a first-class film industry.

A second-class nation has a good but very small film industry, and all its inhabitants watch dreadful American films.

A third-class nation has more people writing articles headed, "Is it too late to save our film industry?" than there are people employed in the film industry itself.

The people of a first-class nation can't imagine living anywhere else.

The people of a second-class nation blame the machinations of first-class nations for all their ills, and think they would be first-class otherwise.

The people of a third-class nation spend most of their time dreaming of becoming illegal immigrants in first-class nations. The style of cooking of a first-class nation is internationally known.

The style of cooking of a second-class nation is known only to the inhabitants and occasional TV programmes.

The style of cooking of a third-class

nation is internationally known and hated.

A first-class nation calls itself a "nation".

A second-class nation calls itself the "motherland" or "fatherland".

A third-class nation is too modest to draw attention to itself.

A first-class nation which declines from the top rank is the last to recognise it.

A second-class nation which works very hard at being second-class, like Switzerland or Canada, would be horrified if it ever left the security of being second-class and joined the top echelon.

A third-class nation knows it is vital to have something at which it is first-class even if it is only something such as rugby union or folk dancing.

A first-class nation should be very big geographically, otherwise it will have to take over large parts of other people's countries.

A second-class nation which likes the size it is, would be well advised not to be

adjacent to a nation which wants to expand.

A third-class nation is very small, or would be if all the uninhabited parts were taken away.

A first-class nation is proud of its history.

A second-class nation is proud of all the visitors who come to see the relics of its history.

A third-class nation has not yet invented its history.

A first-class nation looks down on everyone, especially its allies.

A second-class nation takes comfort in looking down on the worst aspects of the first-class nations.

A third-class nation looks down on Bosnia.

A first-class nation thinks of itself as industrialised, meaning that it consumes vastly more than its fair share of the world's resources.

A second-class nation which likes the size it is, would be well advised not to be

هذه من الأصل

Stop the spin, there's a serious issue at stake here

ANDREW
MARR
MONETARY
UNION

Well, here is an interesting thing. One important part of the Government, the Treasury, briefs journalists one way about the single currency. These stories are consistent and encourage the idea of an early decision to move towards entry. Then they are denied as rubbish by another pretty important part of government, the Prime Minister's Office.

Logically, I would have thought, only one of two things can be happening. Either, as we believe, the briefings are honest, and therefore there is a disagreement. Or one set of briefings is dishonest, and the whole "yes we are, no we aren't" performance is a deliberate piece of news management – an attempt, as the shadow Chancellor, Peter Lilley, suggested, to confuse and demoralise critics, and soften up opinion before the decision on Ecu is announced.

So which is it? This is not a minor matter. It is the single most important and difficult decision currently before the Prime Minister and indeed the country generally.

Yesterday morning the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, announced on the BBC *Today* programme that our report about him disagreeing with Tony Blair was "fiction". Up to a point, he has to say that: had he announced proudly that, yes, he and the PM disagreed about the timing of any attempt to replace sterling with the euro, then he'd have had to resign as Chancellor too. But let us, for a while, take him at his word. The question then is, who composed the original fiction – the briefings which are wrong? Was it the journalists? I know them all, those on *The Independent* and other newspapers, and I don't believe it. Was it the departmental briefers, then, who were responsible for the misinformation? And if so, why?

Here we have a small difficulty. Some readers will have seen the recent two-part documentary about Labour's Treasury team, before and after entering office. It was well-made, hugely entertaining, fly-on-the-wall stuff. I was gobsmacked by some of the material that Gordon Brown's team was prepared to see broadcast – in particular, the open and cheery admission that journalists were misinformed, indeed lied to, about important policy announcements. But it fitted with a mood of triumphal news management that was already present before the election and has become rampant since May. The Labour team is highly professional and has been hugely successful. But what we now have is a swaggering celebration of spin – a contempt for journalism. And I wonder about the sagacity of that.

Fair enough, though, that's the world we live in. It works, at least for the time being, for the Government. But journalism is a problem. The easy answer is to stop listening to briefings. If a ministerial aide brags

about conning the press, why should anyone ring him up ever again? Doesn't the press have some kind of duty to the readers to stand back and say – thanks, but no thanks? That, though, is a counsel of perfection for another and easier world. In this world, a story is a story.

So where are we left on the single currency? My strong impression and belief is that Gordon Brown is keener on an earlier decision than Tony Blair. The latter is a brilliant tactical politician. And if he is truly determined not to go into a European referendum on the issue without the backing of Rupert Murdoch – as ministers say – then a cursory reading of the Murdoch press suggests that Blair still has a lot of persuading to do.

The alternative version would have Blair and Brown taking their decision on the timing and mode of entry privately together. That decision would have been taken long ago, perhaps before the election. As with other key strategic choices, it would then have been accompanied by a carefully pre-planned media campaign.

If you believe that, then the briefings about the timeliness of a decision are merely a long-prepared move in that campaign, and the denials of them are cynical. The media are being strung along, just as the spin doctors boasted happened over other decisions, such as quasi-independence for the Bank of England. Clearly, the implications would be big: in effect, Britain has decided to abandon the pound and the administration is moving in a united fashion to achieve that end.

Certainly, the self-promotion of the high officials of spin, and the utter demoralisation of any political opposition, encourages one to reach, every time, for the more brilliantly conspiratorial explanation. But this time, to believe that you not only have to think Number 10 a nest of liars, but also have to think that Blair would have lied himself to a plan, without knowing how people would react or what the surrounding political atmosphere would be.

So, yes, on balance, I think there is a division of opinion on this matter between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor. On the substance, it is not as serious as the Major-Clarke split, or the Thatcher-Howe split, because the two Labour men are both, in the end, on the same side – in favour of us joining at some time – whereas in the Tory years the division was between committed opponents of Ecu and die-hard joiners.

But every difference between a prime minister and chancellor that concerns the currency and power matters. If Brown's people keep pushing, Blair cannot but intervene and slap them down.

Time is short, and this is a trickier thing for Labour than some ministers seem to think. If the Government has a really coherent thought-through line on Europe, it has made a damned good job of hiding it. The general line seems to be that the decision on the euro is purely economic, has few political implications, and takes us no further into deeper integration. The trouble is (and I speak as a pro-European) that this is clearly nonsense. Monetary union involves more EU fiscal power and thus more political union.

So it is important to say so, and to propose a political model for Europe that can win assent. This can be done. But it hasn't been. It is perhaps the biggest single intellectual omission from the Blair administration so far. And the Government won't get through a referendum campaign with the line as it has been spun thus far – no matter how clever and intricate the spinning has been.

How to survive the arrival of the disloyal workplace

HAMISH
MCRAE
MERGER
MANIA

We are in the age of the Velcro company. No, I don't mean Velcro itself, but rather the way in which giant companies these days seem to spend much of their time sticking themselves together and then ripping themselves apart.

At this moment we have a burst of merger mania. There has been all the fun over BT's effort to take over MCI, the US telephone company, only to find that profits there were slumping. When it cut the price it was prepared to pay, out popped another US group, WorldCom, with a higher offer.

Much of the activity in recent weeks, though, has been in Eu-

rope. We have Guinness, Grand Metropolitan and the French group, LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton reorganising themselves in a part-merger and part-demergers of Byzantine complexity. The idea is to create an enormous global drinks group, but the French luxury side has reservations, so it will go its own way: apparently the head of the French chunk, Bernard Arnault, reckons that joining Burger King and Moët et Chandon is "incoherent" and you can see his point.

Then there is BAT, the tobacco and insurance group, proposing demerging its insurance side (Eagle Star, Allied Dunbar, etc) from the tobacco and joining that with Zurich, the Swiss insurance group. You might have thought it odd, even macabre, that a tobacco firm should own a life assurance group; now it seems the tobacco company has come to the conclusion that it wasn't such a good idea after all.

Read Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing company, is merging with another Dutch publisher, called Wolters Kluwer, to become the world's largest publisher of scientific information. Again you might think there is little logic in merging British pop magazines and Dutch scientific and legal journalism, but it seems there is.

Meanwhile, last week Barclays Bank put up for sale most of BZW, the investment bank laboriously (and expensively) assembled 10 years ago in response to the City's Big Bang reforms. And already this week, Italy's largest insurance group, Generali, is trying to buy France's second largest, AGF, and Finland's largest bank, Merita; merging with Sweden's fourth largest, Nordbanken.

All this activity arouses a certain cynicism. What is particularly odd to anyone outside this world is the way in which companies announce mergers or takeovers with a great fanfare, only to demerge in misery a few years later. Why do they do it?

There is a general reason

which is that it is very easy. Running a business well is extremely difficult: much harder than most people in the professions and in politics (who I'm afraid are inclined to sneer at business people) realise. What is more, it is getting harder all the time, as competition increases and lead times shorten. But sticking businesses together and pulling them apart has never been easier – or, rather, the financial side has never been easier. There are a dozen investment banks which employ immensely highly-paid individuals whose sole job it is

to think up convincing cases for merging or demerging companies and sell these ideas to corporate managements. All you do is hire an investment bank, some lawyers and accountants to do the detail work, and maybe a PR firm to sell the deal and you are in the takeover business.

Of course making a merger work is a completely different kettle of fish. In "people businesses", where the main asset is the brains of the people you take over, there is a disconcerting habit of people to walk. I recall a stockbroker friend whose business was taken over by a British merchant at Big Bang. "What I can't understand," he told me a few months later, "is that they pay all this money for us and then treat us like dirt." Unsurprisingly the merchant bank has itself been taken over by some Germans.

But making a merger work that long, hard and often lonely slog, is not what investment banks are there for. By the time that it is clear that the merger was a terrible mistake the management has been given its golden handshakes and the bank is 50 deals further on.

Now of course there are legitimate reasons for mergers. One is management aggrandisement. People at the tops of businesses tend to be sur-

rounded by courtiers, and investment bankers are brilliant at flattery. So they can make a mediocre chief executive feel wonderful by getting him to announce some decisive takeover. Study the pictures of executives at takeover time: they usually look pretty pleased with themselves, don't they?

A second is the ability to cut costs. Economics of scale do still exist in some businesses: a lot of the savings from mergers result from the fact that the merged business only needs one head office, but there are also savings in research and development. For example the pharmaceutical firms can consolidate their R&D, probably both saving money and getting better results.

Third, there is the familiar argument that there is a proven, competent management team at ABC company which can easily run a business better than the deadbeats that happen to be running XYZ. I suppose XYZ could hire a few of the managers at ABC and that sometimes happens. But often it doesn't, and the most efficient way of installing new management is a takeover by ABC.

Then there are the less legitimate reasons for mergers. One is management aggrandisement. People at the tops of businesses tend to be sur-

rounded by courtiers, and investment bankers are brilliant at flattery. So they can make a mediocre chief executive feel wonderful by getting him to announce some decisive takeover. Study the pictures of executives at takeover time: they usually look pretty pleased with themselves, don't they?

Tiny Rowland, their bitter rival in the fight for Harrods, was then that Rowland chose al-Fayed to warehouse his 30 per cent stake in the then owners of Harrods, the House of Fraser, to avoid monopolistic investigation. A feud between the two erstwhile friends developed when they joined battle for control of the store which each wanted to add respectability to their portfolios.

But respectability eluded al-Fayed. It was not simply that the top people's store was transformed into a temple to a new vulgarity. Despite his best endeavours he could not gain the affirmation he desired. He did try. When Tory ministers came to him for help in 1985 during a sterling crisis, when the Sultan of Brunei was threatening to move billions out of sterling, al-Fayed persuaded the Sultan to stop the transfer. And he stepped in again when the Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshall Lord Bramall, asked for help in stopping the Sultan from switching £500m in defence contracts to non-British firms.

Yet despite this, and large donations to prominent charities like the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, Britain's 14th richest man when he applied for British citizenship was refused on the grounds that he was not "of good character". Other schemes failed too. He was unable to persuade the European Court of Human Rights to overturn the DTI report. And a plan for a £2bn flotation of Harrods on the stock market came to naught.

It must have seemed sweet when the divorced Princess of Wales began a relationship with his son, Dodi. There were rumours of an engagement, even a pregnancy. It seemed that the outsider with the loud shirts with clashing clip-on ties, and a constant supply of earthy expletives might ironically become an in-law of the future King of the country which refused him a passport.

Yet even the tragedy of the couple's death was to bring further smut. His claim to have the last words of the dying princess was, when he passed them on to the Spencer family, dismissed as ludicrous in a reminder of what

Neil Hamilton yesterday brandished as "Mr Fayed's innate capacity for invention".

Given all this, Hamilton asked, why has Sir Gordon Downey so readily believed the testimony of this man?

Hamilton may not have convinced all with his protestations of innocence on the large issues and his sidelong expression of regret at the "embarrassment" of his stay in the Ritz. But the catalogue of questions he has

raised over the behaviour of Mr al-Fayed and his employees are ones which it might be hoped the privilege committee would like to see the billionaire answer. And not through the mouth of his oleaginous PR man Michael Cole, but in person, on oath and subject to cross-examination.

Give Our Native Woodland The Future It Deserves

Today is the 10th Anniversary of the Great Storm of 1987. The immediate impact of the storm was devastating, with ancient trees and native woodlands felled by the wind.

However, it did help raise awareness about the significant decline of Britain's ancient woodland, half of which has disappeared since the end of World War II. In the same time, people began to take notice of and value trees on a national level.

The Woodland Trust is the largest conservation charity with a network of 150 local groups and trees. We currently protect 38,000 acres of woodland, which we keep open for the public to enjoy.

Despite the fact that the storm had many benefits in conservation terms and it did less long-term damage to the environment than it threatened, woodlands take every day, such as neglect, vandalism, dumping and development.

So don't sit back and wait for the next Great Storm to bring trees back into your thoughts. We need you to help us protect the ancient trees and woodland of Britain now, and secure the invaluable national heritage for many generations to come.

Be part of Britain's future.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I would like to make a donation to the Woodland Trust at:

£5 £25 £50 Other: _____

I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to The Woodland Trust.

or Please debit my Visa CAF Mastercard

Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Please send me details of how I can join the Woodland Trust.

Please send me details of "Plant a Tree for Christmas".

The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dyson Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL

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The nation has heard only one side in the Battle of the Liars

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Please send me details of how I can join the Woodland Trust.

Professor Tom Keightley Ewer

Tom Keightley Ewer, veterinary scientist; born Fowey, Cornwall 21 September 1911; Senior Lecturer, Lincoln College, University of New Zealand 1945-1947; Professor of Animal Husbandry and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland 1950-1961; Professor of Animal Husbandry, Bristol University 1961-1977 (Emeritus); OBE 1978; Professor of Animal Resources, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia 1978-80; married 1937 Ivy Bidde (three sons), 1959 June Fischer (three daughters, one stepson, two stepdaughters); died Winscombe, North Somerset 3 October 1997.

Since the late 1960s, veterinary undergraduates have to thank Tom Ewer for raising the profile of animal behaviour and welfare and placing it firmly into the veterinary curriculum. The lead taken by the UK veterinary schools has since been followed by many other universities and today farm animal behaviour and welfare features prominently in the curricula of veterinary schools around the world.

The impetus for this change arose from the publication in 1966 of the Royal Commission

on the Welfare of Animals in Intensive Husbandry Systems. Ewer, then Professor of Animal Husbandry at Bristol University, served as a member of that Committee under the chairmanship of Professor F.W.R. Campbell and during the two-year gestation period he became acutely aware of the dearth of sound scientific information concerning the behaviour of farm animals.

Shortly after the publication of the Brabazon Report, Ewer persuaded Bristol University to establish the first lectureship in the UK Veterinary Schools dedicated to the subject of animal behaviour.

This development illustrates the vision and application which Ewer brought to his work and life. His active in-

volvement in animal welfare matters did not cease, for he became a founder member of the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, later to evolve into the Farm Animal Welfare Council. The UK animal welfare movement which emerged in the 1960s contained some eminent names but Ewer can be regarded as the person who ignited the spark in the veterinary and academic communities.

Ewer's ability as a veterinary educationist was widely recognised around the world. Fresh from the completion of his PhD in Cambridge, in 1950 he was appointed to the Chair of Animal Husbandry and then to be Dean of the new Veterinary School in the University of Queensland, Brisbane. In the latter post he was responsible for the design and lay-out of the buildings, the curriculum and recruitment of the staff.

Following his retirement from Bristol in 1977, he spent two years establishing a Department of Animal Husbandry at King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia. In between these two challenges he created a Department of Animal Husbandry at Bristol complete with new accommodation for teaching and research activities and to house his expanding staff numbers. Throughout his academic career he was regularly engaged

as a consultant by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and visited many countries.

It is perhaps an understatement to say that Ewer was a visionary within the veterinary academic fraternity, because he played a prominent role in the development of three veterinary schools in different parts of the world. He also introduced innovations into the curriculum such as student self-learning through involvement in project work, and this year Bristol celebrated the 30th anniversary of the incorporation of student projects into their undergraduate programme.

Ewer was a formidable man, tall, white-haired and distinguished-looking with an ability to glower over his glasses at appropriate times. Initial encounters could elicit doubts and even fear in the minds of undergraduates and postgraduates, but his appearance disguised the real personality.

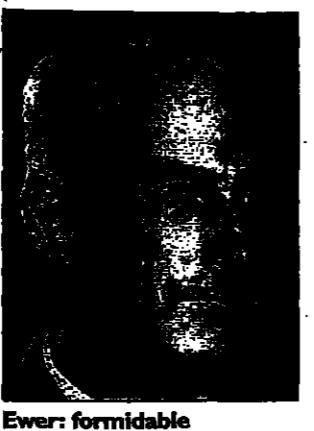
Ewer was fiercely proud of his department, colleagues and students. He was an extremely generous and friendly host to his friends and when examination failures occurred, as they do from time to time, he was greatly concerned for the individual student. It was therefore satisfying for him that all his students succeeded in their examinations towards the end of his final year at Bristol.

He had another life outside his academic activities. He was involved with the local branch of the United Nations Association. He was a leader of the University Settlement, Bristol, a charity attempting to improve the environment of an inner city area, and it was largely for this work that he was appointed OBE in 1978.

He was also a Parish Councillor, member of his local Parish Church Council and a Church Warden. It was a mystery to his colleagues how he managed to organise his life to accommodate these self-inflicted demands. Apparently he timetabled his days and that practice continued through his retirement.

He was a proud family man. His extended family was spread around the world and he took much pleasure in visiting them and tackling new challenges together with his children and grandchildren - skiing in his seventies, water-skiing in his eighties. The arts attracted him and he developed a strong liking for the opera. Daytime meetings in London serving some committee or other were not uncommonly followed by a visit to the opera in the evening and then the late-night train back to Bristol.

- Graham Perry



Ewer: formidable

Igor Bezrodnyi

Igor Bezrodnyi, violinist; born Tbilisi, Georgia 7 May 1930; married Marie Tamper (one daughter); died Helsinki 30 September 1997.

The Russian violinist Igor Bezrodnyi followed a distinguished career as a soloist, chamber musician, teacher, conductor and adjudicator. He was one of the few remaining ex-pupils of Abram Yampolsky, one of the great teachers of his generation.

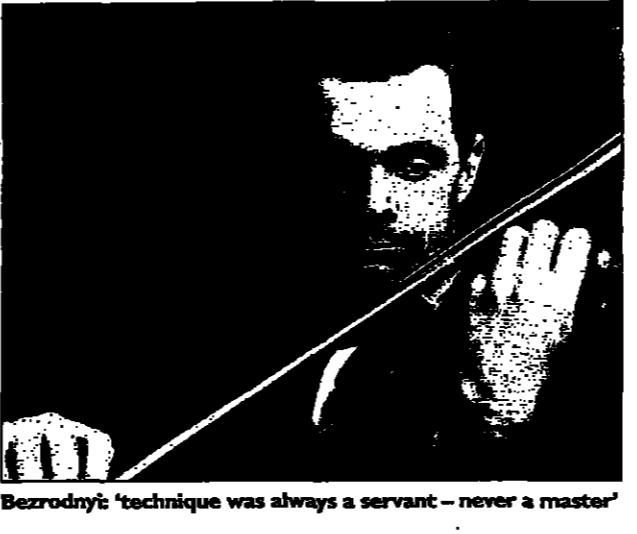
Both Bezrodnyi's parents were violinists and his father - Director of the Tbilisi Philharmonic Orchestra and teacher at the Conservatoire - gave him his first lessons when he was six. At eight he was accepted into Yampolsky's class at the Moscow Central Music School and at 18 he moved for five years to the Moscow Conservatoire and a further three of post-graduate studies, all with Yampolsky; a total of 18 years.

Bezrodnyi was only 17 when he went in for his first international competition in Prague and shared the first prize with Leonid Kogan and Julian Sitkovetsky - all Yampolsky pupils. He was the first Soviet

musician to win a string of first prizes in further competitions: in 1949 he won the Jan Kubelik Violin Competition - again in Prague - and in 1950 he repeated his success at the International Competition in Leipzig dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the birth of J.S. Bach.

Bezrodnyi began his solo career in 1947 and performed with much success all over the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and in more than 60 countries world-wide. For many years he was the violinist of the celebrated "Moscow Trio" with the pianist Dmitri Bashkinov and the cellist Mikhail Khomitsky.

Somewhere he also found time for teaching: in 1953 he became Yampolsky's assistant at the Moscow Conservatoire, and was appointed full violin professor at the Sibelius Academy of Music in Helsinki. His teaching led to him giving masterclasses and again this meant travelling around the world to Finland, Germany, the United States, the UK, Japan, Israel and France. The list of international competitions on which he served on the jury is impressive, and includes the Tchaikovsky, Sibelius, Bach, Wieniawski and the Spohr.



Bezrodnyi: 'technique was always a servant - never a master'

Normally it is difficult for a musician to be recognised in two fields of his profession, although today it is not as rare as it used to be. Bezrodnyi was not only recognised but was acclaimed both as solo violinist and conductor. Curiously, as a small child he had cherished ambitions to be a conductor, but had to postpone the realisation until he was established as a player. So although he was already a professor of violin, he returned to the Conservatoire in 1962 in order to study con-

ducting with Professors Lev Ginsburg and Boris Khaikin.

In the latter capacity he was chief conductor of the Moscow Academic Chamber Orchestra 1976-81, chief conductor of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra in Finland 1986-90, and as guest conductor was invited to countries in Europe and North and South America. He was once asked why he wanted to conduct: "I love playing the violin and have loved it all my life, but the chance of a larger instrument

with more possibilities always attracted me."

Elvira Bekova, of the Bekova Sisters Trio, was his pupil in Moscow for seven years and she emphasises the benefits she achieved from his teaching: "He would always quote Yampolsky as being aware of the individual needs of a student and he brought that vision into his own teaching. He could recognise immediately the special requirements of a particular student and would then make them respond in a way that made everything clear. Of course he insisted upon good technique but the technique was always a servant - never a master."

As a man Bezrodnyi was charming with an old-fashioned courtesy, especially towards women, and his students adored him. Highly intelligent, he had many interests outside music. One of these was film and he never travelled anywhere without a camera. He once said: "Filming a situation, even an unimportant one, allows one to see more through the details or the composition of a shot." He was proud of having won so many first prizes for playing the violin but even prouder of having won second prize in an amateur film festival.

- Margaret Campbell

Graeme McDonald

In your obituary of my colleague Graeme McDonald [by Derek Granger, 8 October], Graeme is credited with being sole producer of *The Wednesday Play* and *Play for Today* be-

tween 1966 and 1977, and producing plays by such authors as William Trevor, writes Irene Shubik.

For the sake of historical accuracy and my own reputation

may I point out that *Wednesday Play* and *Play for Today* were produced jointly by Graeme and myself over that period.

We divided the work load in half; we also divided the writers.

All the William Trevor plays were produced by myself as were such productions as *Edna the Inebriate Woman* etc.

To everyone else's astonishment this arrangement worked

very successfully. A full list of who did what can be found in my book on the programme entitled *Play for Today: the evolution of television drama* (1975).

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

STONE: Lesley Ann (Jessica), on 12 October, suddenly, at home in London. Dear loved daughter of Betty and Alan Stone. She was a close friend of John. The funeral will take place at Mortlake Crematorium on Monday 20 October at 4pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to aid of medical and wildlife charities, c/o L.H. Sanders & Sons, 35 Barnes High St, Barnes, SW13 9LP.

For **Graeme BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS**, telephone 0171-233 2002.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, hosts a performance dinner and dance to launch the Creative Forum for Culture at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London. The Duke of York, the Princess Royal, the Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, attends the Annual General Meeting at Central Hall, London SW1. The Queen, Queen of the United Kingdom, and the new president of the School of Advanced Study and component institutes, University of London, Senator Hon. Lord Deben, and the Prince of Wales, Patron, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, attend a luncheon evening to aid the Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Royal Geographical Society, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Royal British Legion's Awards at Drapers' Hall, London EC2.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

The Duchess of York, 38; Lord Baden-Powell, vice-president of the Scout Association, 61; Sir George Bishop, former chairman, Booker McConnell, 84; Mr Richard Carpenter, singer, 51; Sir Howard Colvin, architectural historian, 78; Professor John K. Galbraith, economist, 89; Miss Catherine Leitch, banker, 93; Miss Catherine Leitch, 93; Miss Anne Mueller, former radio civil servant, 67; Baroness O'Neill of Sutherland, 79; Professor Lucy Compton, Cambridge, 66; Mr Mario Rossi, aviator, 77; Professor Charles Ross, organist, 70; Professor Arthur Schlesinger, writer and former presidential adviser, 80; Baroness Scriven, former Conservative, 78; Mr David Trimble MP, 53.

ANNIVERSARIES

Birth: Virgil (Publius Vergilius Maro), Roman poet, 70 BC; Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, philosopher, 1844; Sir Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, novelist, 1881; Deaths: Pope Gregory XIV, 1591; Mata Hari, executed for espionage, 1917; Pierre Laval, Vichy Government leader, executed 1945; Hermann Goering, Nazi leader, committed suicide 1946; Cole Albert Porter, composer and lyricist, 1964. On this day: the Gaiety Theatre, London, opened as the Strand Music Hall, 1864; the first British Motor Show was held, at Timbidge Wells, 1895. Today is the Feast Day of St. Euthymius the Younger, St. Leonard of Vendoue, St. Thresa of Avila and St. Thecla of Kitzingen.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Christopher Brown, "Blindness (II): Rembrandt, *The Binding of Samson*", 1pm; Jonathan Brown, "Velazquez: the informal portraits", 6.30pm (tickets required).

Victoria and Albert Museum: Irene Logan, "Sculptures of Medieval and Renaissance Women (II)", 2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Catherine Lever, "The Materiality of Stone: Amab Kapoor, Stephen Cox and Ulrich Rückriem", 1pm.

Rothschild Collection, Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire: Dr Ulrich Leben, "The Relationship Between French Ornaments and Works of Art During the 18th Century", 11am.

Gresham College, London EC1: Professor Ian Stewart, "Hearing the Shape of a Drum", 1pm; Professor Lynette Hunter, "What is Literary Value?", 5.30pm.

British Library, London EC1: Dr

Richard Lockett, Peppys Librarian, Magdalene College, Cambridge, 1pm.

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

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Firms threaten jobs boycott in protest over minimum wage

Business leaders
yesterday warned that some companies would boycott the Government's programme for jobless young people if they were forced to pay them the national minimum wage. **Bonic Clement**, Labour Editor, reports on the looming rift between ministers and the private sector.

Employers' leaders argue that while companies will receive state subsidies of up to £60 a week for taking on the unemployed, many businesses could refuse to offer jobs if they are forced to pay a statutory minimum wage.

In its written submission to the CBI said: "There is a danger that the introduction of a minimum wage may prevent employers from taking on low-skilled workers, who may need considerable training before they are able to perform the requirements of the job. This may be particularly the case with small and medium-sized companies."

Employers are set to clash with the Government over its insistence that up to 100,000 unemployed youngsters on work placements should be paid the national minimum wage – albeit at a lower "training" rate.

In its submission to the Low Pay Commission yesterday, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) argued that participants in any of the Government's welfare to work programmes should be exempt from the minimum wage provisions.

However, in an effort to ensure the attractiveness of the New Deal initiative for jobless 18 to 24-year-olds, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) wants to ensure that they are covered by any national minimum wage. A recent Government document says employers will be expected to pay the "normal rate for the job".

Both the CBI and the Trades Union Congress, which also submitted evidence to the commission yesterday, are calling for a lower rate for trainees, but the CBI contends that those on publicly funded schemes should be exempt.

The memorandum from the CBI said there was little evi-

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has told the commission that in making its recommendations it should take into account the wider economic and social implications and the effect of the minimum on employment and inflation. Mrs Beckett acknowledges that some companies, particularly small firms, may have special concerns.

Oral submissions to the commission, chaired by Professor George Bain, principal of the London Business School, started yesterday. Further submissions will be received in visits around the United Kingdom.

Ian McCartney: Anxious to break with past job schemes

dence that the rates set by the old wages councils in the 1980s caused job losses. A minimum set in line with those rates – updated in today's prices and in the absence of any attempt to protect wage "differentials" – would not cause significant damage to the economy, the submission said. A CBI spokesman said wage council rates would translate to around £3.20 an hour – the nearest the CBI came to mentioning a figure.

The CBI said a wage of £4.40 an hour, which is favoured by some unions, would mean 250,000 job losses over two years and impact on inflation.

A more moderate official submission from the TUC yesterday called for minimum wage of "somewhat above £4 an hour".

The Department of Trade has asked the commission to make recommendations on a lower minimum or possible exemptions for people under the age of 25.

It is thought that the Government wants the legislation to exempt youngsters under the age of 18 and to set out a lower minimum rate for 19 to 25-year-olds on training courses.

Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports, they put their own ideas into practice as partners in a highly profitable investment fund.

The 30th Nobel Prize in Economics has gone to Robert Merton of Harvard University and Myron Scholes of Stanford University. They, along with Fis-

cher Black, who died in 1995, "made a pioneering contribution to economic sciences by developing a new method of determining the value of derivatives", according to the citation from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

This year's Nobel award has bucked the trend for the winners to specialise in highly abstract research. Avinash Dixit, a Professor of Economics at Princeton University, said yesterday: "If you ask what idea from the last 50 or 60 years coming from economic research has had the biggest impact on the world, this is it."

Professors Merton and Scholes are partners in a hedge fund, Long-Term Capital Management, which puts their the-

ories into practice. The former Salomon executive, John Merriweather, is also involved.

According to one economist: "They have answered the question 'If you're so smart why aren't you rich?' by laughing all the way to the bank."

Even Professor Merton's students at Harvard's business school are famed for landing high-paying jobs on Wall Street.

Although their work has ranged over the entire field of financial economics, this year's winners are best known for the Black-Scholes formula.

This formula tells traders in derivatives, the financial instruments based on other assets such as shares and bonds, how to price options – that is, it puts a value on the right to buy a stock

or other asset on a particular date in the future at a pre-specified price.

The formula looks complicated. But it says that the value of the option depends on an intuitively sensible list of variables: the current price of the underlying asset, the interest rate on a risk-free alternative investment, the time to expiry of the option, the strike price at which the option can be exercised, and the likely volatility of the underlying asset between now and its expiry date.

The idea is that options are

a form of insurance or hedging against risk. They should be priced so that they allow a share portfolio to mimic a risk-free alternative such as holding Treasury bills.



Derivatives trading at Liffe has been influenced by the formula devised by Robert Merton, top right, and Myron Scholes, bottom right

Nobel Prize winners profit by hedging their bets

The Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded yesterday to two American academics who can claim to have fostered the explosive growth in financial derivatives.

As Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports, they put their own ideas into practice as partners in a highly profitable investment fund.

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Elisabetta Bertero, a lecturer in finance at the London School of Economics, said of the formula: "It has become a self-fulfilling phenomenon. Because everybody uses it, it is the best way of pricing options."

Professor Merton said he was "speechless" on hearing the news that he had jointly won the prize of nearly \$1m.

Friendly society suspends all its sales staff

Liverpool Victoria, the UK's largest friendly society, yesterday suspended its salesforce and called a halt to taking on new business after discovering there were gaps in its records of employee references and training.

The society, which has 1.1 million members and manage £3.5bn of funds, admitted it was unable to satisfy itself that all its 70 sales people it recruited last year had been properly vetted in line with regulators' rules.

David Cheeseman, the society's compliance director, also conceded that Liverpool Victoria's records meant it was unable to tell whether any of its sales people had criminal records.

"We are not able to satisfy ourselves that we can answer that question," he said. "We have no evidence to suggest that that question is worth asking. That is part of the referencing process. If you have incomplete records then you can't be absolutely certain of the history of that individual."

The Personal Investments Authority, which regulates Liverpool Victoria, requires references to be taken on all new sales staff and their training standards. It said yesterday it would monitor the situation.

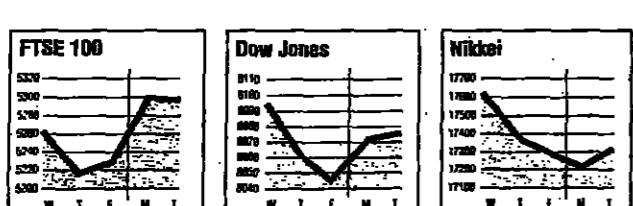
Liverpool Victoria said the suspension of staff was at its own instigation after it discovered the poor record-keeping in routine internal compliance audit last month. It has appointed auditors from Ernst & Young to assist in investigating the problem.

Roy Hurley, chief executive of Liverpool Victoria, said: "This has been a difficult decision to make but we have had no hesitation in believing that it is the right thing to do. We are putting all our efforts into ensuring that our salesforce is reinstated as soon as possible."

The suspension affects not only the 270-strong salesforce but also 450 field agents who collect premiums door to door. Field agents are prevented from introducing new business until the problem has been resolved.

– Andrew Verity

STOCK MARKETS



Dow Jones Index and graph at 5pm

Indices	Class	Change	Chg %	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100		-1.20	-0.02	5330.80	3890.40	3.29
FTSE 250		-4943.80	-23.80	4920.00	4348.10	3.26
FTSE 250		-2548.80	-1.90	2555.30	1929.20	3.27
FTSE All Share		2489.47	2.00	2492.41	1925.79	3.28
FTSE SmallCap		2381.1	-4.10	2387.00	2128.40	3.05
FTSE MidCap		1309.2	-0.20	1346.50	1158.70	3.27
FTSE AIM		1010.2	-1.70	1138.00	1003.80	0.98
Dow Jones		8075.17	-2.95	8259.31	5972.73	1.65
Nikkei		17306.39	101.69	15912.30	17204.70	0.83
Hang Seng		13836.55	-256.34	16673.27	12055.17	3.00
Dax		4202.37	-29.03	4438.93	2659.25	1.90

INTEREST RATES



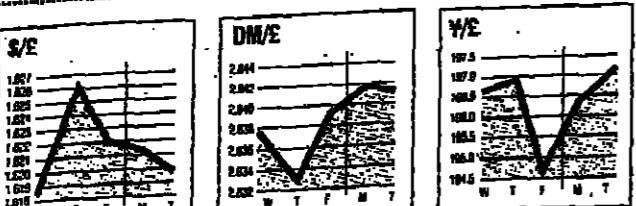
Money Market Rates

Index	3 months	1 year	1 year	10 years	10 years	Long term	1 year
UK	7.35	7.61	9.42	9.42	10.03	6.42	1.35
US	5.75	0.22	6.03	0.18	6.05	-0.49	6.39
Japan	0.53	0.04	0.59	-0.05	1.97	-0.87	2.61
Germany	3.60	0.49	4.05	0.83	5.55	-0.44	6.11

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
Limit	134.75	-0.00	0.85	PUB Mining	255.00	-15.00	-5.58
Polythene	270.50	-15.50	-5.42	Berkely Grid	722.50	-32.00	-4.32
Brit Energy	427.50	-23.50	-5.42	Rays	738.50	-24.00	-3.14
Commercial Un	864.00	-45.00	-5.49	Storehouse	237.00	-7	-3.07

CURRENCIES



Details of the share option schemes, revealed in documents filed with Companies House, give the clearest indication yet that some senior Energis executives stand to emerge hundreds of thousands of pounds better off from the flotation.

The documents, filed last month, show that Mike Grabiner, the chief executive poached last year from a top job with British Telecom, has already made profits on paper of £1,193,692 from his share op-

tions. Chris Hibbert, Energis finance director, is sitting on £352,210 of paper profits from the same option schemes.

Mr Grabiner was awarded 814,815 share options in September 1996 from Energis's executive scheme, at an exercise price of 108p, while Mr Hibbert emerged with 222,222 options.

The two directors were both also granted 21,562 options from a separate save-as-you-earn scheme, with an exercise price of 80p.

The documents show that Energis revalued its internal share price in August at 250p a share, a 75 per cent

Are you ready to meet the American Challenge?



Bullock's Papers

October 15th, 1997: a famous day in European Luxury Motoring History. That is the day, at the London Motor Show, Hall 1, Cadillac will unveil the all-new Seville. And very shortly America's top selling luxury car will debut in England in right-hand drive version. It's all part of the American Challenge.

The new Cadillac Seville sets new standards in styling, technical innovation and performance. And offers more features (as standard) than any comparable car. This full list will impress you – as it will

astound our most distinguished European competitors. The Cadillac Seville right-hand drive, Made in America, but designed for the United Kingdom. Are you ready to meet the American Challenge?

It's all happening at the London Motor Show, Hall 1.

Should you not be able to join us on our show stand, call 0345 – 661104.

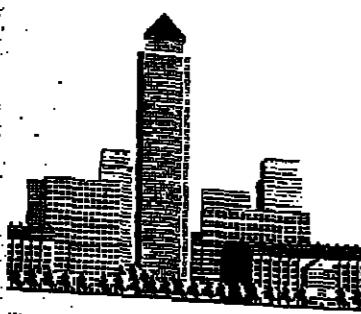
We would be delighted to supply any further information on the all-new Cadillac Seville.

<http://www.cadillac-europe.com>



Cadillac®

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Prescott's challenge for the British car industry

OUTLOOK
ON LABOUR'S PLANS
FOR THE CAR A
DISCOUNT RIGHTS
ISSUE AND
QUALIFYING FOR
MONETARY UNION

This Government is not anti-car. Definitely not. It was mere coincidence, therefore, that it chose to take the gloss off the opening day of the London Motor Show with a gruesome set of forecasts demonstrating how the motor vehicle will slowly choke the life out of our cities and beauty spots over the next 34 years.

The projections, compiled for the Daimler-driving Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, suggest that journey times in some parts of the country will double by 2031, while traffic levels are forecast to grow by a thumping 60 per cent. The forecasts are based on the assumption that no more major roads are built and their purpose is to demonstrate that Something Must Be Done to check the inexorable rise of the internal combustion engine.

Labour shows every intention of getting tough on the motor car. The difficulty lies in finding a way of doing this without also checking economic growth. For the reality is that traffic growth and rising car ownership merely reflect the fact that people are living longer, getting richer and increasing their economic output.

Penalising car ownership can therefore have little appeal to a government looking to get re-elected. Making car usage more expensive might seem a rather more vote-friendly alternative if the twin goals can be sold as those of curbing congestion and pollution. Car ownership, per capita, remains lower in the UK than in many other parts of Europe.

But we are a small country, so a squeeze on car usage is surely coming.

whether it be through punitive increases in fuel duty, road pricing or a further assault on the tax perks enjoyed by car users. The motor industry has learnt how to make cars more affordable through lean production methods. Now the challenge is to make them cheaper to run and less harmful to the environment at the same time, so that dual car ownership can still be justified.

There is still a belief in some quarters that too many jobs depend on the motor industry for the Government to play fast and loose. But, as Mr Prescott is making clear, we are no longer living in Mrs Thatcher's "great car economy" – something that the next Budget is likely to make painfully obvious.

The price of cheap right issues

What's this? A rights issue at half the normal cost? Obviously the City's unique and arcane system for raising equity capital is capable of adapting to the new low cost environment of the late 1990s after all. That, at least, was the way Schroders was billing yesterday's £123m rights issue from Berkeley, the house builder. Normally the upfront costs of raising capital in this way work out at about 2 per cent of the sum raised. By making subunderwriters tender for the business, Schroders reduced this by half to 1 per cent. Subunderwriters got only 0.3 per cent, compared with the usual 1.25 per cent.

Actually, this was not quite the immo-

vation that Schroders was boasting of yesterday. A few nobs and whistles have been added, but this is essentially the same formula used by Schroders and others last year in an attempt to see off repeated threats by John Bridge, director-general of fair trading, to refer the City's underwriting cartel to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. By arranging the subunderwriting in this way, Schroders can claim, with some justification, that the cartel no longer exists.

Mr Bridge's concerns about the existence of a "complex monopoly" have been answered, the cost of raising capital to British industry has been lowered, and jealously guarded pre-emption rights have been preserved, all at the same time. Brilliant.

Unfortunately it is not quite like this. Cost of capital is a many-headed monster and it is by no means clear that what Schroders is doing here is much of an advantage. In essence Schroders has used the Berkeley issue to test the extent to which investors will accept lower commission, because a wider discount reduces their underwriting risk. By plumping for a wide discount to the prevailing share price of around twice the usual level, the cost to Berkeley of raising its money was reduced by around 50 per cent. However, the long-term costs to the company of this capital have probably been greatly increased.

This is because investors will continue to expect the same rate of dividend on the new shares, even though they are being issued at a discount of a quarter to the prevailing stock market price. The effect of

widening the discount is correspondingly to increase the ongoing costs of the capital.

Companies would probably be better off issuing shares at a large enough discount to have done with the underwriters altogether, and then persuading the institutions that they should accept a cut in the dividend to compensate for the discount. Or perhaps they should simply adopt the American bookbuilding model and accept that rich bankers are the price for tight discounts. Either way, Mr Bridge's plan shouldn't flinch from referring the present system to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The case for a narrow EMU

So upbeat was the delightfully optimistic Yves-Thibault de Silguy yesterday about the chances of virtually all EU member states of qualifying for monetary union in the first wave, that it seems almost churlish to cast any doubts on the project's economic sustainability. It is wishing hard enough could make it come true, the European monetary affairs commission is having a fair old go.

At issue is the question of whether a wide EMU will be stronger and more successful than a narrow one. The politics point to including Italy. The need for economic convergence points to postponing Italian and probably French membership.

Regrettably, it is so unthinkable to suggest that France too should not be allowed

in to the first wave of the single currency that nobody does so. But rushing the French economy into it could be disastrous unless the government shows an awareness of the economic reforms it must introduce in order to cope.

Consider how narrow the options are. It is already out of the question for France not to track German interest rate movements, and rates in both countries will have to rise toward the EU average as the start date approaches. There will be no possibility of a devaluation. The government must also carry on reducing its borrowing, so there will be no stimulus to the economy from public spending and taxes.

Yet unemployment is stuck at an unacceptably high level and growth is sluggish. The only option is widespread structural reforms. But France has a government that could not be further from admitting the need for an end to state subsidies, for radical deregulation and for flexibility in the job market, and a political and financial elite that will not learn lessons from anybody else's experience.

This is something that affects the British government's calculations, as Gordon Brown's emphasis on the forthcoming series of jobs and economic summits shows. However keen the Chancellor may be to join the single currency, it has to be one that works. Yesterday's predictions from Mr de Silguy were meant to show that a wide EMU can go ahead, yet in truth, the closeness of the call for two of the biggest economies made a much stronger case for a narrow membership.

EU forecasts rule in all bar one for EMU

The European Commission's upbeat forecasts for 1997 make it plain that it has ruled out only Greece on economic grounds from joining the single currency, reports Diane Coyle, Economics Editor.

It surprised nobody that the forecasts delivered the answer EU Monetary Affairs Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy has always wanted.

In its last set of economic forecasts before it has to make its final recommendations on membership of the single currency to ministers next May, the European Commission has left only Greece on the wrong side of the finishing line. Although the other 14 countries do not meet every one of the Maastricht Treaty criteria to the letter, it is clear from the Commission document that Mr de Silguy will recommend they should be allowed to join EMU if they want.

Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said yesterday that he would make a statement about Britain's intentions "at the turn of the year", although membership in the first wave was "very unlikely".

The EU nevertheless gave the British economy a clean bill

of health, although predicting that it would slow sharply next year even as the Continental recovery gathered steam.

Yesterday's forecasts were greeted with a degree of cynicism in the financial markets.

"The Commission lives in 'Teletubby' land where everybody talks nonsense and nothing ever goes wrong," said Alison Coxwell at PaineWebber in London.

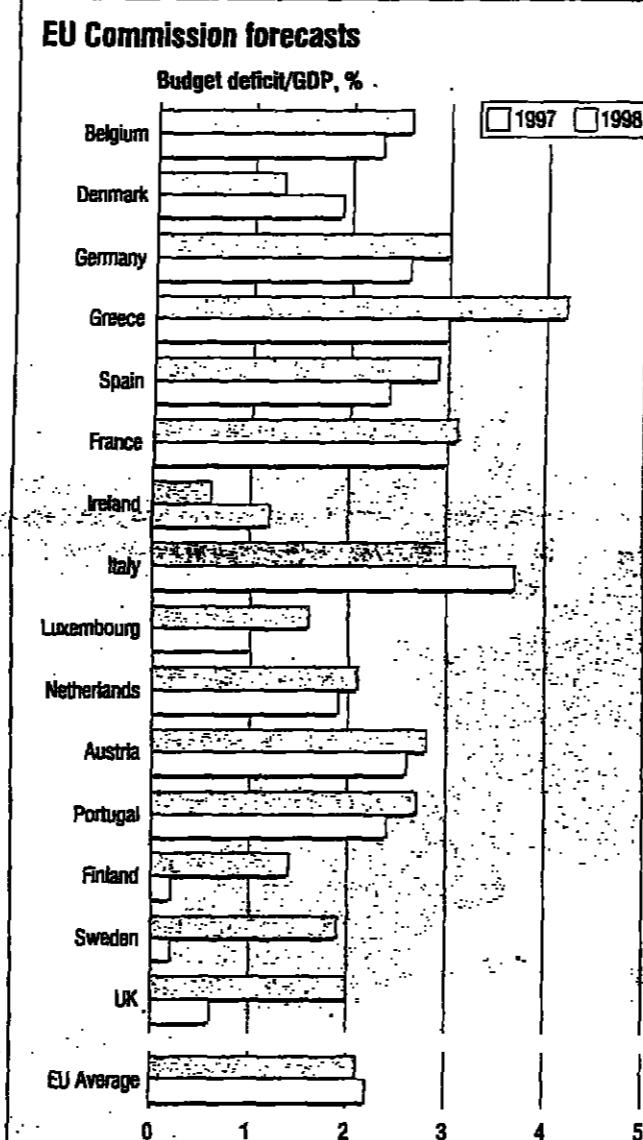
She added: "It does make it plain what their recommendations on EMU will be."

The forecasts show all member countries except Greece and, by a whisker, France with a government budget deficit below the Maastricht ceiling of 3 per cent in 1997, the decisive year for qualifying for the first wave of EMU on 1 January 1999. It predicts that France's deficit will creep down to 3 per cent on the nose in 1998, good enough to describe its position as "sustainable".

A bigger question mark hangs over Italy, where Commission economists have assumed that the latest budget goes ahead as planned even though the government crisis in Rome has prevented any detailed discussion of how to implement the plans. Even so, Italy's deficit will rise to a predicted 3.7 per cent of GDP in 1998.

Mr de Silguy said Italy could meet the economic targets if it resolved its political problems.

David Marsh, European expert at the investment bank Robert Fleming, said there was a question mark over Italy's position. "There is a possibility they will not be allowed in be-



the finish line, he doesn't then just turn around."

French and Italian politicians insisted yesterday that their countries would qualify in time. Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said France would have "no problem".

But Italy's prospects depend on the general level of US and world interest rates as much as the government's plans because interest payments on old debt account for more than all of the budget shortfall.

The Commission has become more optimistic about

cause they haven't achieved sustainability," he said. The Germans would prefer narrow membership of the euro, excluding Italy, he said.

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The Commission has become more optimistic about

Europe's economic prospects since its forecasts in the spring. It has revised up expected growth for the EU as a whole to 2.6 per cent this year and 3 per cent next year, from 2.4 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively.

Although this still leaves EU-wide unemployment above 10 per cent, it has allowed it to publish lower figures for the expected ratios of government debt and deficit to GDP, allowing the Maastricht hurdles

to be cleared with a little more breathing space. The spring forecasts had shown Italy well above the 3 per cent limit.

However, the EU puts UK growth at only 2.1 per cent in 1998 after an expected 3.3 per cent rise in GDP this year. Most UK economists expect GDP growth to slow down to 2.5 per cent next year, but inflation to pick up to close to 3 per cent. The EU, by contrast, forecasts inflation staying at 2.4 per cent.

Electrolux axes 1,300 jobs

Electrolux is to cut 1,300 jobs at two UK factories and transfer production of refrigerators and vacuum cleaners to factories outside the UK. A factory in Luton will be closed with the loss of 650 jobs. A second factory in Spennymoor, County Durham, will cease production of refrigerators with the loss of 650 jobs.

Sun Life sells Irish company

Sun Life & Provincial Holdings, the insurance group, is selling its 83 per cent stake in New Ireland Holdings, the Irish life assurance company, to the Bank of Ireland. Sun Life stands to net around £200m from the deal. "Our strategic focus is in the UK," said a Sun Life spokesperson. New Ireland fits with Bank of Ireland's life assurance business, which commands around 8 per cent of the Irish market.

Charges keep airfares high

Sky-high airport charges are preventing airfares from coming down, especially for business travellers, the chairman of British Midland warned yesterday. Sir Michael Bishop told a meeting in Venice that the absence of real competition between airports was largely to blame for the excessive level of airport charges, which now account for more than one-quarter of airline operating costs.

Prince buys into Daewoo

Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the billionaire Saudi businessman, has paid \$50m for a 6 per cent stake in the Korean industrial conglomerate Daewoo Corporation, whose interests span ships, cars, chemicals, textiles and construction.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Heavy Bead (I)	50.4m (75.5m)	2.24m (2.34m)	8.69 (7.89)	2.3p (2.1p)
Financial Publishing (I)	4.16m (8.02m)	0.16m (0.35m)	1.5p (3.3p)	n/a
Five Dials (I)	8.84m (8.57m)	3.98m (2.00m)	2.57p (2.0p)	0.9p
Government Insurance (I)	1.75m (-)	1.74m (-)	3.20 (-)	1.2p
Hawley (I)	12.8m (11.4m)	1.34m (1.98m)	4p (5.7p)	3.5p (3p)
Hightech Distillers (I)	20.1m (18.5m)	4.31m (4.11m)	20.2p (20.1p)	0.9p (0.3p)
Industrial Hardware (I)	22.2m (18.6m)	10.8m (7.44m)	33.2p (24.7p)	18.2p (10.8p)
JS Jerome & Sons (I)	18.8m (16.6m)	0.98m (0.81m)	2.3p (4.6p)	1.1p (1.0p)
Netcall (I)	0.46m (0.61m)	-1.2m (-0.02m)	-9.3p (-0.19p)	(-)
Oliver Property (I)	-	-	0.68m (0.77m)	1.07p (0.749p)
St Ives (I)	58.4m (52.9m)	48.9m (42.2m)	33.3p (28.7p)	11.5p (10.1p)
Whiteman Co (I)	7.05m (6.15m)	0.65m (0.44m)	5.85p (5.54p)	1.75p (1.57p)
Wimblington (I)	17.5m (15.5m)	2.72m (2.05m)	2.54p (1.91m)	-

(I) - Int'l (I) - Intern

pre-tax pre-exceptional costs 13 mids vs 12 mids

Capital to overhaul ailing restaurants

Capital Radio is overhauling its restaurants less than a year after it moved into the catering business by purchasing the My Kinda Town chain. Cathy Newman reports on Capital's plans to convert several ailing restaurants into Latin American live music venues in a belated attempt to win the City's approval of the MKT deal.

Capital has responded to City scepticism about its £57m acquisition of MKT last year by rethinking its approach to the restaurant business. MKT, which was last month renamed Capital Radio Restaurants, has decided to focus on two core brands – radio cafés, such as the Capital Radio Café in London's Leicester Square, and Latin American live music venues.

The Chicago Pizza Pie Factory in Mayfair is among a handful of restaurants which are likely to be renamed Havana, after MKT's flagship Fulham restaurant. The rebranding exercise could cost up to £4m and

would see ailing restaurants such as the Chicago Meatspace restaurant in Glasgow take on the Havana name. MKT's existing Latin venues, which include Salsa in Charing Cross Road and Cuba in Kensington High Street, are to remain untouched by the review. The Henry J Beans franchise, which has branches in London, Manchester and Bristol, is also likely to be maintained.

The Capital Radio Café is to be rebranded as the Radio Café, provided the £8.7m acquisition of Virgin Radio is given the go-ahead by the Department of Trade and Industry by 14 November, but a final decision is not expected until mid-December.

Analysts say the shares are likely to drift until then, with investment houses such as Merrill Lynch predicting that the deal

هذا من الأصل

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Little cheer for Highland

Investors in Highland Distilleries have had little to raise a glass to in recent months. In Famous Grouse and Macallan it has two of the best premium whisky brands in the world. However, while its products have been able to hold their own, the shares have lost their premium rating. The stock has fallen from 372.5p since May and has underperformed the market by more than 30 per cent over the last 12 months.

Currency fears are partly to blame. Highland has been on a world-wide export drive. For the first time last year most of its sales came from overseas and sterling's strength wiped £2.3m off profits in the year to August. However, the falling pound is now relieving that pressure.

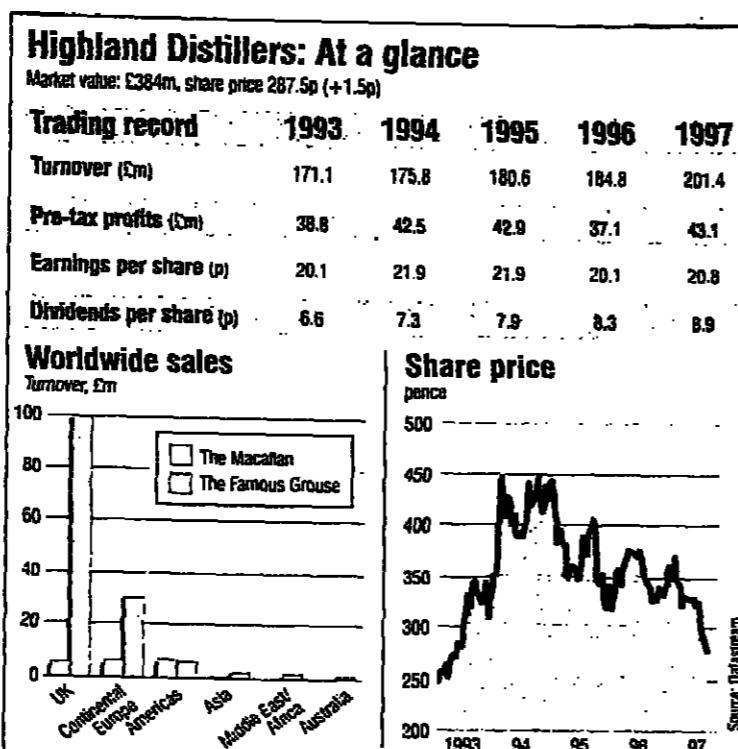
The recent acquisition of Macallan has also raised a few eyebrows in the City. However, Macallan's profits came in ahead of expectations in the year, rising to £10.3m compared with £7.1m in 1995, and the deal has not dented earnings per share.

That aside, the real concern going forward is how Highland will fare with the inevitable turmoil in the world's spirits market after the mega-merger between Grand Metropolitan and Guinness. Will it, for example, be able to compete with the marketing clout of the new drinks giant as it seeks to expand in markets around the world? After all, it is much easier to order your whole spirits supply from one source than to buy a brand here and there.

Of course, Highland could actually benefit from the alliance. It may be able to pick up a brand or two that GrandMet and Guinness are forced to shed by competition authorities. The deal could also force other competitors to get their act together, raising the prospect that Highland may fortify its already close links with Rémy-Martin.

Despite the uncertainties, Highland will continue to be a steady performer. The strength of its brands give it an obvious advantage over cheaper, standard whiskies which have been hit by the surge in the number of discounted supermarket drinks.

Underlying profits rose 7 per cent



to £43.1m and the shares edged up 1.5p to 287.5p. Greig Middleton forecasts current-year profits of £45.5m, which puts the shares on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 13. Hold on.

Merger boost to St Ives' profits

Monday's merger mania was undoubtedly good news for St Ives, one of the UK's largest printers of corporate finance documents. The group, which reported a 16 per cent increase in full-year profits to August yesterday, has around a fifth of the UK domestic corporate finance market and the same of the London-originated market on international deals.

The company printed the documents

for some hefty deals – like the Halifax and Norwich Union demutualisations. However, that was tempered by the general election, which damped the market, and a reduction in annual report print runs following the takeover flurry in utilities.

Though the book market has picked up in the autumn, growth was pretty

flat in the year without special projects like the Penguin 60s range, which boosted 1996.

The real growth for St Ives should come from mail order and direct advertising, a market growing at some 8 per cent a year and 30 per cent of group turnover. Magazines, also 30 per cent of sales in the UK, are also getting fatter and growing interest in computer and Internet-related topics has given that division a kick.

With its biggest markets growing well, St Ives should benefit. Its management is highly rated and it has an impressive track record for accurate and fast printing and distribution. Sterling will remain an issue, but mainly on translation as St Ives needs to be near its key customers to export much.

The real question will be what the company will do with its £26m cash pile, set to grow given the group's strong cash flow and high returns. With 75 per cent of its business still in the UK it looks vulnerable to an economic downturn here. Any cash should go on building on its German and US businesses.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett forecasts £52m profits next year. The shares, up 12.5p to 532.5p, are on a prospective

earnings ratio of 15. In line with the sector, but growth prospects for this company look above average. Good value.

Unappreciated plans at Hamleys

It is hard to find fault with Howard Dyer's strategy at Hamleys, the toy retailer best known for its flagship store on London's Regent Street. But while his ideas make sense, their merit has yet to be reflected in the share price, which has suffered from the market's general unwillingness to back smaller company stocks.

The sentiment issue was in evidence yesterday when Hamleys' shares shed a further 11.5p to 317.5p, due mainly to a half-year profits hit by sterling's strength – affecting tourist spending in London – and the cost of the £8.7m acquisition of the Toy Stack chain in May.

The combination forced interim profits down from £1.98m to £1.86m. However, the long-term merits of the strategy bear repeating. The plan is to capitalise on the strength of Hamleys' brand by investing further in the main store and in high-profile satellite outlets in international airports.

The Toy Stack acquisition should enable Hamleys to build market share and utilise its buying strength without the brand dilution that opening a Hamleys on every high street would inevitably lead to. The company is also expanding in department stores through the House of Toys concessions in 47 branches of Debenhams.

Management has been strengthened with David Fogel, the Toy Stack founder, appointed head of buying and a new chief executive on board.

Hamleys is developing its own label range which will help margins. Own label already accounts for 10 per cent of sales in the Regent Street store, even though there are only 400 products out of a total of over 40,000.

On a forward multiple of just 13 Hamleys' shares are at a substantial sector discount. That should be corrected in time. And a bid is always possible from an international player seeking a trophy asset. Hold on.

Mr Folkerts-Landau will become managing director and global head of DMG's emerging markets research. No doubt the IMF folks in its Washington head office will be gnashing their teeth. The currency turmoil which has hit Thailand, Malaysia and other Asian "tiger" economies seems tailor-made for his skills. He's only just published a paper for the IMF titled "Toward a Framework for Financial Stability, for heaven's sake. Not that this will bother DMG. It aims to build the world's top ranked research and economics team by 1999.

John Dean once swore to colleagues that he would "never, never work in London". Well, the professional northerner and smaller companies analyst is now. Mr Dean has left brokers Albert E Sharp in Birmingham and taken the M1 to SBC Warburg, in the City's Broadgate complex, to follow small engineering companies.

Mr Dean's career has moved steadily southward. Before Sharp's he worked at Wise Speke in Newcastle, and before that he was at Ivory & Sims in Edinburgh. At this rate he should make Alice Springs by the millennium.

Mr Dean will be replaced at Sharp's by Steven Medlicott, who is currently working at brokers Harris Alday in Birmingham.

A colleague of mine was driving back from France to the UK last week via Le Shuttle when Calais was hit by an appalling storm. The terminal was lashed by wind and rain and trains through the tunnel were delayed because of the conditions. My colleague advanced to the counter to book in, only to see Brian Dix, boss of Le Shuttle, dealing directly with customer an

notices.

Mr Dix certainly showed a commendable willingness to "muck in", standing there in his yellow and green Eurotunnel anorak. The service remained pretty chaotic, though.

Goodbye Cowie Group, hello Arriva. The Sunderland-based bus and motor company has spent up to £1.5m rebranding itself, not least because its name sounds too much like "cow" to continental ears.

After all, the bus operator and distributor is hard at work expanding into Denmark and the rest of northern Europe. As a spokesman puts it: "Cowie looks at first glance like a farmyard animal and people will think of it in those terms."

Dumping the name also distances the bus operator from its founder, Tom Cowie, who left the group in 1994.

Even Sir James McKinnon, the company's chairman, admits that: "We are conscious of one major potential limitation on our future rate of development – the Cowie brand itself."

The company spokesman added that Arriva "will transfer easily and positively" in mainland Europe and Scandinavia.

He said the name would give it a modern image and a "customer-friendly brand with a feminine style and value".

Well, Arriva sounds like a cross between a women's magazine and the Spanish word *arriba* to me. Which may be no bad thing.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



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First Leisure warns of hit as tourists desert Blackpool for foreign shores

First Leisure, the leisure group run by the former Channel 4 boss Michael Grade, was yesterday forced to issue a profits warning after admitting that the Blackpool illuminations had proved a turn off for tourists last month.

Andrew Yates examines the ramifications for a group that has already been under the bid spotlight after its share price has tumbled over the last 12 months.

Last month holiday makers, flush with building society windfall payments, flocked to foreign shores rather than visit the delights of Blackpool and their famous illuminations.

Whitbread invests £50m to take Beefeater upmarket

Beefeater, the steak house responsible for bringing us the infamous prawn cocktail, steak and chips and Black Forest Gâteau meal, yesterday announced a £50m facelift designed to take the chain upmarket.

Whitbread, the chain's owner, has been forced to invest heavily in Beefeater to compete with the explosion of money spent on restaurants by its main rivals and the rapid increase in the number of pubs offering decent food. The relaunch, including a new menu and brand, will be supported by a £10m television advertising campaign, its first for four years.

Simon Wood, managing director of Beefeater, said: "We needed to differentiate Beefeater in an increasingly overcrowded eating-out market. We want to become the M&S of the eating-out world."

Whitbread is also planning to open another 10 Travel Inns,

Simon Johnson, leisure analyst at BZW, said: "They have recognised that bingo has been a disappointment. This prepares the ground if they do want to dispose of the business."

Mr Johnson believes First Leisure has spent a total of £60m on its bingo business and the properties, including bingo halls, are now only worth around £20m. So the write down could be anything up to £40m.

Analysts lowered pre-tax profit forecasts by £1.5m to around £43m for the current financial year.

First Leisure also admitted it would take a large hit in its final results for the year to November after having to write down the value of its loss-making bingo division. Mr Coles denied that the bingo division was up for sale but admitted it would be disposed of if the group could not turn it around soon.

The lastest disappointing statement is bound to fuel

speculation that the group could succumb to a takeover bid. Bass, which recently lost out to Nomura in the race to buy the William Hill betting chain, is thought to be running the bid slide rule over the company.

However, First Leisure is keen to maintain its independence and is believed not to have held any serious discussions with any rivals.

One analyst said: "It does make First Leisure look more vulnerable to a takeover. But you have to ask who is likely to buy the business. I am sure Bass has a file on it. However, it is unlikely that anyone would be interested in the whole business."

First Leisure's nightclubs and bars have both performed well over the summer months with second-half sales up 18 per cent in total and 5 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

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Shares in Shield Diagnostics, the company developing a test for heart disease, slumped 10p to 617.5p yesterday after the group announced the retirement of Gordon Hall as managing director.

Following his departure, Mr Hall, aged 55, sold 250,000 shares. While his shares were placed at an undisclosed price by UBS, the sale will have made Mr Hall, who still owns some 150,000 shares in shares and options, a millionaire. He will be replaced by David Evans, Shield's finance director. Mr Hall said that his decision to retire, first released in a bungled news release on Monday before it was quickly withdrawn, was no reflection on the potential of AFT, its big hope product.

Shares in the company rocketed from 130p earlier this year on hopes that its Activated Factor 12 product would replace cholesterol tests as the standard

risk measure of heart disease. Mr Hall said discussions with several large companies, thought to include Abbott, to commercialise AFT were underway.

"Talks are progressing. This has nothing to do with the way discussions are going and there is no rift on the board. I want to spend more time with my daughter," he said. "We are close to bringing off a commercial agreement for AFT. There is no way on earth that I wanted to prejudice the discussions by not announcing my retirement beforehand."

Mr Hall will stay on as adviser in any talks and emphasised that he retains 35 per cent of his shareholding.

Shield's shares hit a 91p high earlier this year before plunging to 500p on news that bungled handling of blood samples had spoiled data.

—Sameena Ahmad

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3D WaveTable Sound

Memory 3D WaveTable Sound

Akehurst leaves the bookies to sleep easier

One of the most feared trainers in handicaps may have landed his final coup. Richard Edmondson reports on Reg Akehurst's decision to retire.

William Penn, the English Quaker and founder of Pennsylvania who was born 353 years ago yesterday, once said: "Men are generally more careful of the breed of their horses and dogs than of their children." Roger Moore, who shares the same birthday, observes: "I replace everyone. I'll be replacing Mick Mouse in about three years' time." Bookmakers, who will celebrate 14 October forever more for the removal of a genuinely irreplaceable force, prob-

ably muttered across the nation yesterday, "thank Gawd he's going".

Reginald Peter John Akehurst, who yesterday announced that he is to retire at the end of next month, has been one of the great acts of British racing. With his homely jackets and loafers, Reg always looked more like a trespasser who had wriggled past the enclosure police, rather than a trainer.

The sort of avuncular figure you could find in the back row of a christening photograph, Reg would approach the press corps after a big handicap win professing he was the most surprised man in the house. After he had done this about 20 times following the nation's most prestigious races some of us began to rumble him. Reg was having us on. The bookmakers were not so trusting.

However, the elementary assignment of regularly baffling the Fourth Estate is close to an end for this particular 68-year-old. Akehurst is to step down at Epsom's South Hatch Stables, from where he has told us, the gullible, that "loving the horses is all there is to it". He will not be walking out of the gate and into the sunset though, as he is to advise his son, Jonathan, when Akehurst jnr steps behind the desk.

"My son will come into the yard and take over. He trained here when he started and trained 20 winners, so he knows

the place and knows the Epsom Downs. I have spoken to the owners and the majority are going to keep their horses here so it could be a great opportunity for him. But I will still be here - as an unpaid assistant."

After a 12-year career as a jumps jockey, Akehurst took our a training licence in 1962. There was a brief intermission in his career when he retired in the early 1980s, but he returned to post further significant vic-

tories, almost exclusively from his Epsom premises, though he also operated from Lambourn and Dorset.

Though he won considerable prizes over jumps, it was Akehurst's ability to get an amateur well handicapped for a major Flat assignment which was his greatest skill. He won all the most valuable offerings in the calendar, from the six-furlong Wokingham with Astrac through the one-mile Hunt

Cup with Red Robbo, to the Ebor with Sarawat. It was his gift to improve horses that arrived in his yard from other trainers, an art he refined so greatly that even Red Robbo, who decamped from Henry Cecil's stable, was persuaded to win at Royal Ascot.

Akehurst was inevitably tagged "the handicap specialist", which was not a sobriquet he considered incorporating by deed poll. It may be telling that his proudest moments were the victories he achieved in higher company.

"They didn't stop to think that all I had was handicappers and that you can't win Group races with them," he added yesterday. "Racing has been very good to me. There have been plenty of highlights, and it is difficult to pick out one, but I got a lot of pleasure from little Gold



Akehurst: avuncular

Rod, who won three Group races in France."

The people at Ladbrokes certainly appreciated his talents. "Mr Akehurst is a top-class, dual-purpose trainer," Andy Clifton, the firm's spokesman, said yesterday. "Not just with well-publicised handicap coups, but with horses of all abilities. We are sorry to hear of his retirement, but at least we'll be able to sleep a bit easier the night before a big handicap."

RESULTS

AYR

2.20: 1. DAYBREAK (P. Folley) 21-2. KENNETT (D. C. Smith) 20-1. Bute 7-12. 3. 11. (J. W. Watts, Richmond). Total: £7100; £440, £260, £29. DF: £7100. CSP: £325. Thresh: £1022.75. Thic: £912.00.

4.00: 1. SWINGTIME (P. Folley) 21-2. 2. 11. (P. A. Morris, Bury St. Edmunds). Total: £1022.75. Thic: £912.00. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thresh: £1022.75.

5.30: 1. TABERANN (K. Darley) 6-1. 2. RICARD (S. Hay) 5-2. 3. WATERSIDE 5-2. 4. 2. 11. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

6.45: 1. SET TRAIL (E. Johnson) 11-4. 2. 11. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

7.00: 1. 11. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

7.45: 1. SOUTHERN DOMINION (S. Webster) 10-1; 2. Another Episode 25-1. 3. 11. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

8.00: 1. 12. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

8.45: 1. 13. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

9.00: 1. 14. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

9.45: 1. 15. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

10.00: 1. 16. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

10.45: 1. 17. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

11.00: 1. 18. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

11.45: 1. 19. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

12.00: 1. 20. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

12.45: 1. 21. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

13.00: 1. 22. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

13.45: 1. 23. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

14.00: 1. 24. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

14.45: 1. 25. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

15.00: 1. 26. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

15.45: 1. 27. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

16.00: 1. 28. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

16.45: 1. 29. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

17.00: 1. 30. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

17.45: 1. 31. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

18.00: 1. 32. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

18.45: 1. 33. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

19.00: 1. 34. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

19.45: 1. 35. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

20.00: 1. 36. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

20.45: 1. 37. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

21.00: 1. 38. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

21.45: 1. 39. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

22.00: 1. 40. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

22.45: 1. 41. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

23.00: 1. 42. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

23.45: 1. 43. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

24.00: 1. 44. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

24.45: 1. 45. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

25.00: 1. 46. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

25.45: 1. 47. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

26.00: 1. 48. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

26.45: 1. 49. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

27.00: 1. 50. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

27.45: 1. 51. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

28.00: 1. 52. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

28.45: 1. 53. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

29.00: 1. 54. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

29.45: 1. 55. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

30.00: 1. 56. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

30.45: 1. 57. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

31.00: 1. 58. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

31.45: 1. 59. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

32.00: 1. 60. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

32.45: 1. 61. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

33.00: 1. 62. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

33.45: 1. 63. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

34.00: 1. 64. (P. C. Clifton, Newmarket). Total: £1022.75. DF: £1022.75. CSP: £325. Thic: £1022.75.

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Attila the Hull dreams of conquest

Mark Hateley could have gone to many clubs as player-manager, but he chose one which has consistently failed to punch its weight, Hull City.

As the Third Division club prepared to meet Newcastle United tonight, Guy Hodgson talked to the former England striker to find out why.

They would not dare call Hull City sleeping giants. Comatose pygmies maybe, as even their most dedicated supporters would be hard put to find anything leviathan in their past. Glory has tended, like the M62, to fall short of the town.

An FA Cup semi-final in 1930 and various ups and downs in the lower divisions is not a history to be particularly proud of a club with half-a-million people within easy commuting distance. Which makes Mark Hateley's arrival at Boothferry Park as player-manager intriguing. Is north Humberside stirring at last?

Attila the Hun to Attila the Hull is a demon in historical and football terms, but they have beaten Crystal Palace of the Premiership this season and there are signs things are being turned round in the Third Division. Tonight 4,800 fans will travel to Newcastle United with a Coca-Cola Cup upset in mind.

"The potential here is enormous," Hateley said. "It's a

great catchment area full of sports-orientated people. You look back over the past 10, 20 years and the crowds that came here were fantastic. Those people are still there and if we can get the club run properly from the school of excellence through to the first team they'll come back."

It is the promise of things to come that persuaded Hateley to go to Hull and back. After a playing career of 20 years – with, among others, England, Milan, Monaco and Rangers – he was looking for something more than the Saturday-Tuesday-Saturday grind and was quickly persuaded by the visions of the chief executive Michael Appleton and David Lloyd, the club's chairman and Britain's Davis Cup tennis captain.

"It was a two-minute meeting," Hateley said. "They were very positive and thought on the same lines as myself. I'm always moving the goalposts, always setting the standard higher in terms of ambition. They want to achieve what I want to achieve."

It is fair to say that what Hateley achieved on the football field was done away from the English game. At 21, raw and strong, he left for Italy and returned in his thirties, only to become the brunt of supporters' criticism at Queen's Park Rangers. He learned his trade on the Continent and brought it to fruition in Scotland, playing a part in six championships.

He does not regret missing out on the Liverpools or Manchester Uniteds of the English game on the valid grounds that he played for three clubs with worldwide reputations. "I was 31

and I was invited to Milan, who wouldn't want to go there?"

"It was a great experience not only for myself but my family too. I can see it in my kids. They're very confident, they speak a couple of languages, it was an education for everyone."

It was certainly a finishing school for the player, whose touch on the ground was not as sure as his threat in the air. "When you go to Italy you get the ball once every 10-15 minutes so you learn to adore it, to keep it and look after it. Here you get so much possession you don't appreciate the value of it. That's why the marksmen in Italy become very clinical, the chances are few and far between."

He has drawn on those ties, calling Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, for advice as

Hateley, along with Ray Wilkins, got Milan into Europe for the first time in nine seasons and helped lay the foundations for the team who won the European Cup. He had moved on by then, taking in Monaco en route to Scotland.

"Undoubtedly I played my best football at Rangers," he said. "What I had learned in France and Italy came together in Glasgow and Ally McCoist and myself scored over 300 goals in six seasons, which is a phenomenon anywhere. It was a marvellous period in my life. Great times and great friends."

He has drawn on those ties, calling Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, for advice as

he has set about changing Hull from a long-ball team. "The club has been kicked and body-blown for 20 years," he said. "I inherited 44 players who had been barracked and abused for years and it's difficult to get them out of their shells. After three months they are just learning to play again."

"I shout a lot because that's the way you get things done. When I arrived there were complaints from people saying 'You're asking too much, we're only a Third Division outfit'. That's rubbish. If you think Third Division that's where you'll stay. If you aim for the top you might fall short, but you won't be far away."

Hull will be shooting high tonight, taking on a Newcastle side whose commitment to the Coca-Cola Cup is likely to be more genuine than other clubs in Europe because of their need to win some silverware. It is a big game, although Hateley is unlikely to get over-excited even if they do spring the shock of the round.

"For my players it will probably be the biggest game of their careers," he said. "My message will be the same as for the Crystal Palace match: 'Go out and enjoy it, don't let the game pass you by. The pressure's off. We're not expecting to win.'

"Every game is important to me. Somebody asked me after

England not guaranteed high seeding

Now that the hard work of qualifying for the World Cup finals has been done, England are turning their thoughts to the finer details of the tournament.

Glenn Hoddle's team are keen to secure their position as one of the top eight seeds, and thus not face another leading nation in the first round. Seedings will be the responsibility of the 28-man Organising Committee administered by Fifa, world football's ruling body.

One member of the committee is Sir Bert Millichip, the former Football Association chairman. He and his colleagues, including Scotland's David Will, must decide whether Fifa's world rankings will influence the seedings. England are currently ranked seventh, Scotland 27th.

Seedings at the 1994 World Cup were governed by performances at the last three finals. If the same applies this time, England, who did not qualify in '94, are unlikely to be among the top eight seeds.

The committee must also decide the fate of players who collected two yellow cards during the qualifiers but have not yet served a suspension. If, as expected, an amnesty is declared, the Tottenham defender Sol Campbell will be free to play in England's first game.

The Football Trust yesterday strongly opposed a suggestion by Manchester United's chief executive, Martin Edwards, that terracing might be reintroduced to top grounds in England and Scotland. The Football Trust's first deputy chairman, Richard Faulkner, said: "We would consider such a move a retrograde step by clubs in the top divisions."

A bone-scan yesterday revealed that Arsenal's French midfielder Emmanuel Petit does not have a broken ankle, and he could be back in action for the Premiership leaders inside two weeks. Petit was injured playing for his country against South Africa in a friendly.

Alan Shearer was seen at Newcastle United's training ground without crutches yesterday for the first time this season, after badly injuring the ligaments and bone in his right ankle in a summer tournament at Goodison Park. However, the England striker does not expect an early return to action. "It probably won't be January and probably won't be February either," he said.

Reports in Buenos Aires that Manchester United have made a bid of £13m for the Chilean striker Marcelo Salas, who scored a hat-trick against Peru on Sunday, have been denied by his Argentine club, River Plate.

– Rupert Metcalf



Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Scots join forces on ground safety

A partnership which will support the development of football facilities in Scotland has been formed between the Scottish Sports Council and the Football Trust.

The alliance, which was unveiled yesterday at Hampden Park, will have a crucial role to play in completing the recommendations of the Taylor Report on improving safety at grounds, and will also consider awards from the Lottery Sports Fund and the Trust's finances for work at the grounds of Scottish League clubs.

But even the minnows of Scottish football outside the four divisions will benefit with non-League teams eligible to apply for funding for essential spectator safety works.

Allan Alstead, the chief executive of the Scottish Sports Council, revealed that about £9m would be released over the next four years for that safety work to be done.

However, he warned clubs not to let their enthusiasm for upgrading grounds run away with them: "We don't have a bottomless pit of money. Applications will have to be tempered with realism," he said.

Alstead was "delighted" to announce this unique partnership. Money from the Lot-

tery Sports Fund will allow essential safety work at Scottish clubs at all levels to be continued. We do not have a specific sum of money set aside for this initiative but we hope that sufficient funds [£9m] would be forthcoming to make a material difference to ensuring that the outstanding Taylor work is completed."

Community football projects will continue to follow the Lottery Sports Fund's existing application process.

Richard Faulkner, the deputy chairman of the Football Trust, said: "Today's announcement is a tremendous boost for Scottish football and a further vote of confidence in the Trust as the only national body with the remit to help the game at all levels and in all parts of the UK."

The Trust has a proud record going back over 20 years of helping the game in Scotland. This agreement means we can continue to do so for many years to come."

The Scottish League president, Doug Smith, added to the mood of celebration. "I am delighted that the Scottish Sports Council and the Football Trust have joined together," he said, "and I hope this partnership will benefit Scottish football."

Cayard leads the break as Whitbread boats close in on Cape Town

The three leading boats in the Whitbread Round the World Race may now have made the decisive break of the opening leg, but, as Stuart Alexander explains, the tactical battle is not over.

Back up to speed on the 7,350 mile route from Southampton to Cape Town, the American Paul Cayard, skipper of the Swedish yacht, EF Language, yesterday had a 35-mile lead over the second-placed Grant Dalton on Merit Cup.

Dalton was holding a middle station between the

more southerly Cayard and the skipper who led for most of the leg, Norway's Kau Frostad on Innovation Kvaerner.

These three should be enjoying fast, reaching conditions for 24 hours, testing Dalton's theory that the trio are the fastest in the 10-boat fleet. "We have been in the north and the action has been in the south," Dalton said. "There you have it, the story of this first leg, a leader's race. We are now getting on with catching up."

An expected cold weather system bringing 20 to 25-knot winds could help the chasing group close the gap after rounding the Ilha da Trindade. Britain's Lawrie Smith on Silk Cut would be

pleased to be one of them. After closing to less than 100 miles, Smith has seen the gap between him and the leading boats expand to more than 180, although he has consolidated fourth position with a 55-mile cushion over Mark Fischer on Chessie Racing.

However, despite the frustrations, the leaders are expected to be no more than 24 hours behind their expected arrival in Cape Town on 22 October.

WHITEBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (first leg, 7,350 miles, Southampton to Cape Town) Latest position: 1. EF Language (GB) 7,350 miles, 2. Merit Cup (GB) 7,350 miles, 3. Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 7,350 miles, 4. Chessie Racing (USA) 7,350 miles, 5. Silk Cut (GB) 7,350 miles, 6. EF Language (GB) 7,350 miles, 7. America's Challenge (US) 7,350 miles, 8. Silk Cut (GB) 7,350 miles, 9. EF Education (GB) 7,350 miles, 10. Brunel Sunergy (Neth) 7,350 miles.

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